

**WESTON-SUPER- MARE TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE POLICY & FINANCE COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD AT GROVE HOUSE ON
MONDAY 20TH FEBRUARY 2017**

Meeting Commenced: 7.00 pm

Meeting Concluded: 8.20 pm

PRESENT: Councillors Clive Webb (Chairman), Roger Bailey, Peter Crew, Mark Canniford, Clive Darke, James Davis (S), Peter Fox, Mike Lyall, Richard Nightingale, and Lisa Pilgrim.

IN ATTENDANCE: Malcolm L Nicholson (Town Clerk), Sarah Pearse (Responsible Financial Officer), Samantha Bishop (Committee Officer) and Brianna Millett (Weston & Somerset Mercury).

The Chairman invited any members of the public to address the meeting.

Alan Rice, a resident of Ellenborough Crescent addressed the meeting in relation to agenda item 9. He shared his grave concerns over the scale of deprivation happening within the central ward of the town. He referred to the statement issued by North Somerset Council's department of Health and Social Services that ill health and deprivation are connected. He informed of the queues of homeless and sofa surfer people he had witnessed attending St Pauls Church on a Thursday and the staggering number of people needed to attend the food bank on a Friday which included a large number of children. He was also a member of ACORN Weston-super-Mare which is the Weston branch of the Association of Community Associations for Reform Now.

273.	To receive Apologies for Absence and Notification of Substitutes Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Michal Kus who was substituted by Councillor James Davis and Councillors Catherine Gibbons and Robert Payne with no substitutions.
274.	To receive Declarations of Interest Councillor Clive Webb declared a personal interest in agenda item 5 as a share holder of Lloyds Bank.
275.	To approve the minutes of the Policy & Finance Committee meeting held on 17th October 2016 The minutes had been previously circulated with the agenda. PROPOSED BY: Councillor Peter Crew SECONDED BY: Councillor Peter Fox A vote was taken and carried . Accordingly it was: RESOLVED: That the minutes be approved and signed by the Chairman.
276.	

	<p>To note the minutes of the Working Party to Review Expenditure & Governance 14th November 2016</p> <p>A vote was taken and carried. Accordingly it was:</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the minutes be noted.</p>
277.	<p>Bank Account</p> <p>The report of Responsible Financial Officer was available to view at the meeting.</p> <p>The Responsible Financial Officer informed that it had been quite a challenge to obtain quotes from suppliers and that the report indicated the quotes obtained. Lloyds Bank had shown a keen interest by sending a business manager to meet with her as opposed to only an email from the other suppliers. Unity Trust Bank were a specific service provider used by other Councils however, they used Natwest as a clearing house and therefore any banking would be done through the local Natwest branch in Weston High Street.</p> <p>PROPOSED BY: Councillor Peter Crew SECONDED BY: Councillor Roger Bailey</p> <p>A vote was taken and carried. Accordingly it was:</p> <p>RESOLVED: That subject to renegotiating the £300 set up fee, Lloyds bank be selected as the Town Council's banking service provider.</p>
278.	<p>Monthly Financial Reports: November and December</p> <p>a) For Approval Schedule of Unapproved Expenditure</p> <p>PROPOSED BY: Councillor Peter Crew SECONDED BY: Councillor Mark Canniford</p> <p>A vote was taken and carried. Accordingly it was:</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the expenditure 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. Income Analysis vi. Overspend Month end overspend report vii. Bad Debt report <p>A vote was taken and carried. Accordingly it was:</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the reports 5bi – vii be noted.</p>

279.	<p>Recommendations from the Civic Consultation Group and Events Working Party</p> <p>The Minute extract from the Civic Consultation Group dated 9th January 2017 had been previously circulated with the agenda.</p> <p>The Chairman invited the Chairman of the Events Working Party to propose the recommendations.</p> <p>In response to a question, the Chairman of the Personnel Committee informed that the Civic Officers job description had been agreed by the Personnel Committee.</p> <p>In response to a query, the Town Clerk informed that the tickets to the Mayors Charity Dinner and Dance were selling very well.</p> <p>PROPOSED BY: Councillor James Davis SECONDED BY: Councillor Mark Canniford</p> <p>A vote was taken and carried. Accordingly it was:</p> <p>RESOLVED: That both the recommendations of the Civic Consultation Group and the Events Working Party be approved.</p>
280.	<p>Neighbourhood Plan</p> <p>The Town Clerk's report had been previously circulated with the agenda.</p> <p>The Town Clerk summarised and advised that after consultation other Councils and Town Clerk's felt that the project would be a huge undertaking and would require many resources.</p> <p>A member felt that in this instance that being a dual hatted member could actually benefit the Town Council with such a project. However, although the Town Council has its own Strategic plan, it had no jurisdiction over planning. The project would not add any value to the Council and would therefore be a waste of time.</p> <p>Discussion ensued over the redevelopment of the town centre and the lack of public consultation involved. The Town Clerk informed that he had become aware of the plans and reported them to group leaders in December. It was reported the money had become available due to government underspends and that North Somerset Council applied for the funding quickly and therefore had to start work and spend the money by March.</p> <p>A member referred to the 9 levy benefits indicated within the report and was informed that in this case the money had already been spent and so there would be no financial benefits to the Town Council.</p> <p>A member reported that the Planning Committee had objected to the removal of the wall in the town square and that the very next day the scaffolding had been erected for removal and therefore questioned the point of the Planning Committee and wasting members' time.</p>

	<p>A member informed that the parish of Backwell had had two planning applications submitted which would conflict with their Neighbourhood Plan and explained that it would be interesting to see the decision made which would proof the effectiveness of having a Neighbourhood Plan in place.</p> <p>A member suggested whether a Neighbourhood Plan could be done just on the area of play areas.</p> <p>PROPOSED BY: Councillor Mark Canniford SECONDED BY: Councillor Peter Crew</p> <p>A vote was taken and carried. Accordingly it was:</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the Council will not pursue the project of developing a Neighbourhood Plan.</p>
281.	<p>Deprivation and NHS services in Central Weston-super-Mare</p> <p>The letter from NHS England of 17th January 2017 and the appendices of Deprivation 2015, North Somerset Council had been previously circulated with the agenda.</p> <p>The Town Clerk apologised for the delay in reporting the response from NHS England and explained that this was due to the letter being received after the issue of the last Town Council Agenda.</p> <p>Councillor Richard Nightingale informed that he had asked for both these documents to be reported at the meeting. He stressed his grave concerns about the levels of deprivation in central ward. The latest statistics show that the average life expectancy of people living in central wards was 14years shorter than other areas in North Somerset. He referred to the levels of crime and issues linked with private rental properties. He reported that 5% of the properties had no light or heating. He stressed that the situation had worsened and that both councils were not doing the people justice by not stepping in and helping with the dire situation. A proposal was then made to set up a Working Party to work with the communities to try and help the situation and recommended that central ward members and Councillor Mike Lyall be part of the Working Party as they would know the ward and community.</p> <p>Councillor Mike Lyall would be honoured to be involved with a Working Party for this purpose and was please to read the review in the local paper regarding the review of the central Children's Centre.</p> <p>A member agreed with the proposal but felt that the Town Council needed to ascertain what it would actually achieve by doing this.</p> <p>Another member would like to obtain all of the facts to be able to compare with other areas before any meetings took place.</p> <p>Councillor Peter Crew suggested that Councillor Richard Nightingale could take his place on North Somerset Councils ASH panel where these types of issues were being discussed.</p>

	<p>A member suggested to pursue the matter via the ASH panel before initiating a Town Council Working Party would be beneficial due to the influential bodies associated with the panel.</p> <p>Councillor Richard Nightingale would like to see pressure from all areas and while he would pursue the ASH avenue he would still like the Town Council to set up a Working party and act as a voice for the people of central ward.</p> <p>PROPOSED BY: Councillor Richard Nightingale SECONDED BY: Councillor Mike Lyall</p> <p>A vote was taken and carried. Accordingly it was:</p> <p>RESOLVED:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the Town Council set up a Working Party to help with the deprivation issues with central ward. 2. The Chairman would liaise with the proposer of the motion to establish Working Party Membership.
282.	<p>Birnbeck Pier Trustee appointment</p> <p>Due to a member resignation there was a vacancy on the Birnbeck Pier Trust.</p> <p>Councillor Richard Nightingale offered to dually represent both Councils as a dual hatted member.</p> <p>PROPOSED BY: Councillor Richard Nightingale SECONDED BY: Councillor Peter Fox</p> <p>A vote was taken and carried. Accordingly it was:</p> <p>RESOLVED: That Councillor Richard Nightingale be appointed to represent the Town Council on the Birnbeck Pier Trust.</p>
283.	<p>Internal Audit 2016-2017 (Interim Update)</p> <p>The Internal Audit report and the report of the Responsible Financial Officer had been previously circulated with the agenda.</p> <p>The report of the Responsible Financial Officer requested members to note the Internal Audit report and consider and approve the actions taken as a result of the report.</p> <p>PROPOSED BY: Councillor Peter Crew SECONDED BY: Councillor Roger Bailey</p> <p>A vote was taken and carried. Accordingly it was:</p> <p>RESOLVED: To note the Internal Audit report and consider and approve the actions taken as a result of the report.</p>

284.	<p>Waste Bins/Sharp Boxes for public convenience units in Grove Park</p> <p>Both the minute extracts from the Community Services Committee dated the 7th November 2016 and from the Policy & Finance Committee dated the 22nd August 2017 and list of anti social behaviour incidents at Grove Park toilets had been previously circulated with the agenda.</p> <p>The Town Clerk informed that the 10 incidents reported over a four month period were reasonably low and that the contractors would prefer sharps bins to be provided. Members were being requested to provide either waste bins or sharps bin or nothing at all with its public conveniences.</p> <p>A member suggested forwarding the incident report to Dee Mourn at North Somerset Council as the information would be useful for the on the spot fines.</p> <p>Members felt that the council had a duty of care to protect members of the public when using its facilities.</p> <p>PROPOSED BY: Councillor Peter Fox SECONDED BY: Councillor Roger Bailey</p> <p>A vote was taken and carried. Accordingly it was:</p> <p>RESOLVED: To provide waste bins within all Town Council operated Public Conveniences.</p>
285.	<p>Memorial Benches for Parks and Open Spaces</p> <p>The report of the Responsible Financial Officer had been previously circulated with the agenda.</p> <p>Members were requested to approve the cost of £827 for Memorial benches in Parks and Open Spaces and approve the charging methodology for the provision of memorial trees.</p> <p>A member felt that an agreement was needed for additional maintenance costs after 10years.</p> <p>A member reported a problem with dog fouling on the marine lake end of the seafront and asked if the Town Council were able to provide dog bins. A further member confirmed that there were bins provided within the area and that North Somerset Council will help target the problem when their on the spot fine systems comes into practice.</p> <p>PROPOSED BY: Councillor Peter Fox SECONDED BY: Councillor Roger Bailey</p> <p>A vote was taken and carried. Accordingly it was:</p> <p>RESOLVED:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To approve the suggested amount of £827 for Memorial benches in Parks and Open Spaces.

2.

	Approve the charging methodology for the provision of memorial trees.
	There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.20 pm

Signed..... Dated.....
Chairman