

**WESTON-SUPER- MARE TOWN COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF THE TOURISM AND LEISURE COMMITTEE  
HELD AT THE BLAKEHAY ON TUESDAY 19TH DECEMBER 2023**

**Meeting Commenced:** 2.32 pm

**Meeting Concluded:** 3.12 pm

**PRESENT:** Councillors Peter Crew (Chair ), Mike Bell, Annabelle Chard , James Clayton , Catherine Gibbons, Simon Harrison-Morse, John Crockford-Hawley, Caroline Reynolds and John Standfield

**ALSO, IN ATTENDANCE :** Malcolm Nicholson (Town Clerk /), Fay Powell (Assistant Town Clerk-Operational Services ), Rebecca Saunders (Civic & Committee Officer) and Julie Donahugh (member of the public)

<b>274</b>	<p><b>Apologies for Absence and Notification of Substitutes</b></p> <p>Apologies were received from Councillor Richard Tucker who was substituted by Councillor James Clayton, Councillor Joe Bambridge who was substituted by Councillor John Crockford-Hawley and Councillor Bailey with no substitution.</p>
<b>275</b>	<p><b>Declarations of Interest</b></p> <p>There were no declarations of interest received.</p>
<b>276</b>	<p><b>To approve the accuracy of the minutes of the Tourism and Leisure Committee meeting held on the 17<sup>th</sup> October 2023</b></p> <p>The minutes of the meeting had been previously circulated with the agenda.</p> <p><b>PROPOSED BY:</b> Councillor Simon Harrison-Morse <b>SECONDED BY:</b> Councillor Caroline Reynolds</p> <p>The Committee Officer noted that under item 169, Councillor Roger Bailey proposed instead of Councillor Richard Tucker.</p> <p>A vote was taken and accordingly it was <b>carried</b>.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> That with the above amendment the minutes be approved as a true record of the meeting and signed by the Chair</p>
<b>277</b>	<p><b>Finance Reports</b></p> <p>The Report of the Deputy Town Clerk had been circulated prior to the meeting</p> <p><b>RESOLVED</b> That the report be noted.</p>
<b>278</b>	<p><b>Tourism Update</b></p> <p><u>.1 General update</u></p> <p>The Assistant Town Clerk-Operational services invited questions in relation to the reports and none were received.</p>

**RESOLVED:** That the report of the Visitor & Information Manger be noted.

.2 Update Partners

The Assistant Town Clerk-Operational Services reported that the banner advertising was now ready to be launched and request s had already been received to utilise this service from partners.

The Chair noted that the Tourism Statistic s were outstripping competitors and had continued to build month on month.

5.2.1 New partners and changes to partnership levels

The Assistant Town Clerk-Operational Services reported the Tourism Manager had attended an event at The Grand Pier and delivered a presentation which had been very well received and resulted in enquires from large organisations, one of which had ordered 5 platinum packages.

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

5.2.2 Business Closures & Openings

The Assistant Town Clerk-Operational services invited questions in relation to the reports and none were received.

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

5.2.3 Airbnb in North Somerset

The Assistant Town Clerk-Operational Services reported there were no updates on this item and requested to defer to the next meeting.

**RESOLVED:** That the Visitor and Information Services Manager explore options for promoting Airbnb properties through the Visit Weston website.

5.3 Silca Update – Asset transfer update from the Deputy Town Clerk

The Assistant Town Clerk-Operational Services reported there were no updates and requested to defer until the next meeting.

**RESOLVED:** That an update report on the Silica asset transfer be given at the next meeting.

**279** **General Play Provision Update**

.1 To receive the full list of current play provisions undertaken by Weston Town Council

The Assistant Town Clerk-Operational services invited questions in relation to the reports and none were received.

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

.2 Development of Play Strategy

The Chair requested that a working party be appointed ahead of any play consultation to

review all existing play areas and decide on a firm direction future play provision should take.

Councillor James Clayton requested that any decisions made should consider the demographics of each area as it was felt that some sites in more deprived areas would benefit from more local play support and inclusion of picnic areas in addition to play equipment, providing outside space to families without gardens.

#### 6.2.1 Community Engagement

The Assistant Town Clerk-Operational Services reported there was a need to engage with the community of each of the play areas to ensure what was required and that each area achieved and ensured long term protection of the new assets. This engagement should be robust and include consultation with:

- Residents and Park users
- Community Groups
- Partner organisations (i.e.: Police/ Local Authority)

#### 6.2.2 Timescales for development of play strategy

The Assistant Town Clerk-Operational Services reported the play strategy would need to be adopted and in place by the Autumn of 2025 to allow for adequate financial planning and identification of capital requirements etc.

During 2024/2025 the current play areas would be maintained to meet the required safety standards.

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

#### 6.2.3 Appointment of External Play Consultant

The Assistant Town Clerk-Operational Services reported that play provision had evolved rapidly in recent years and that the employment of a specialist Play consultant may be required to support the development and interpretation of the Fields in Trust (FiT) standards into a Play strategy document for members to adopt.

A member enquired into the costs of appointing a consultant.

The Assistant Town Clerk-Operational Services reported that no costs had been enquired to date, but once the committee had approved the procurement in principle the procurement process would involve members who could control costs.

#### 6.2.4 Existing play area repairs; To provide direction for interim needs ahead of play strategy adoption.

The Assistant Town Clerk-Operational Services reported that the council continued to work with an external play specialist to provide up to date condition reports on all 22 play areas. Once received, these reports would provide detail of priority areas or work required across the councils play provision and would be used to identify essential and urgent works to meet national safety standards.

**PROPOSED BY:** Councillor Peter Crew

**SECONDED BY:** Councillor Simon Harrison-Morse

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

**RESOLVED:**

- 1) To approve the timescales for Community Engagement to commence in Spring 2025 detailed in 6.2.1 above.
- 2) To approve the suggested timescales for Development of a Play Strategy detailed in 6.2.2
- 3) To approve the use of an External Consultant as required ( details of which will be bought back to future meetings for approval prior to appointment).
- 4) To note and approve the interim maintenance of current play areas in 2024/2025 while the play strategy was in development (during next financial year).
- 5) To form a working party to review existing play areas consisting of Councillors Peter Crew, Catherine Gibbons and Annabelle Chard.
- 6) That while the above was taking place that urgent works be carried out on play areas that required attention.

6.3 To receive the condition surveys from GB Sport & Leisure, received to date

The condition surveys from GB Sports & Leisure to date were circulate prior t o the meeting.

The Assistant Town Clerk-Operational services invited questions in relation to the reports and none were received.

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

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**Castle Batch SEN Play Park**

.1 Future Steps Community engagement & safety, confirmation of next Community engagement meeting

The Chair reported that the vandalism experienced earlier in the summer had been resolved with the base on site for the PCSO and Community Response Officers. The Assistant Town Clerk-Operational Services informed that the development team had arranged a Community engagement event at Weston Museum early in 2024. Regular Inspections carried out by the Grounds Manager indicated that the park was being well used and holding up well to the high use.

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

7.2.1 Additional Equipment Provision

The Assistant Town Clerk-Operational Services reported that further to previous reports on the desire to include an outdoor gym on the site , a meeting with North Somerset Council Officers had been arranged to discuss granting permissions and the favored location.

**RESOLVED:** An update on additional play equipment at Castle Batch Play Park would be reported to the committee at the next meeting.

7.2.2 Update on Future development areas from The Deputy Town Clerk

The Assistant Town Clerk-Operational Services reported that a concession for refreshments on site either in the community hall or in a mobile unit located in the car park would be of great benefit as would some tree planting to provide shade in the summer months.

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

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**Waterpark**

.1 Update on operational model 2024

The Assistant Town Clerk outlined the benefits of managing the on-site concession internally including generating revenue, resolving the problem of unpaid entries and allowing the opportunity to gather information on visitor numbers and locations where visitors were coming from.

The report had been approved by the Policy & Finance Committee to invest and operate a kiosk at the waterpark solely managed by the Town Council to follow the principles used in Clara's café model.

A member enquired how the figures of expected revenue had been reached.

The Assistant Town Clerk -Operational Services explained that previous entry numbers and average spend per head of Museum visitors had been used to project the income. She was confident that the reported figure was conservative and that with good weather and out of season opening, the figure could easily be increased substantially.

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

.2 Capital Investment requirements

Item not discussed.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 3.12 pm

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

**Chairman of the Tourism and Leisure Committee**