

**WESTON-SUPER- MARE TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT THE TOWN HALL ON
MONDAY 21st MARCH 2022**

Meeting Commenced: 7.03 pm

Meeting Concluded: 8.21 pm

PRESENT: Councillors James Clayton (Town Mayor), Dot Agassiz, Ray Armstrong, Roger Bailey, Gillian Carpenter, Sarah Codling, Peter Crew, John Crockford-Hawley, David Dash, Peter Fox, Catherine Gibbons, Jan Holloway, Pete McAleer, Robert Payne, Alan Peak, Ian Porter, Sonia Russe, Tim Taylor, Lisa Pilgrim and Richard Tucker.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Malcolm Nicholson (Town Clerk), Sarah Pearse (Deputy Town Clerk, Rebecca Saunders (Mayors Civic Officer/Committee Officer), Fay Powell (Assistant Town Clerk Operational Services), Becky Walsh (Communications Officer), Reverend Peter Ashman (Town Mayors Chaplin), Inspector Graeme Hall (Avon and Somerset Police), David Jolley and Alan Rice (members of the public).

The Town Mayor invited his Chaplain to say prayers.

The Town Mayor invited members of the public to address the meeting.

375	Apologies for Absence and Notification of Substitutions Apologies for absence were received from Councillors, Mike Bell, Gill Bute, Ciaran Cronnelly and Roz Willis.
376	To receive Declarations of Interest There were no declarations of Received.
377	To approve the accuracy of the Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on the 24th January 2022 PROPOSED BY: Councillor Alan Peak SECONDED BY: Councillor Ian Porter RESOLVED: That the minutes be approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record of the meeting.
378	To receive announcements and communications from the Town Mayor The Town Mayor presented the Deputy Town Clerk with a BA Honours degree award. The Mayor's announcements and communications were circulated prior to the meeting. There had been 165 engagements attended by the Mayor, 7 by the Deputy Mayor, which was a total of 173 to date. Significant upcoming events reported were the: 1 st April British Heart Foundation Raffle Draw

	<p>7th April Weston College Easter Dinner 9th April Weston Rugby v Hornets Match 22nd-24th April Hildesheim Visit.</p> <p>The Town Mayor also thanked councillors for their support raising the Ukrainian Flag.</p>
<p>379</p>	<p>To receive the Notes of the Youth Council Meetings held in January and February 2022</p> <p>The notes of the Youth Council meetings had been previously circulated with the agenda.</p> <p>Councillor Sarah Codling thanked the town council for welcoming the members of the Youth council in attendance and congratulated the Youth Council for their ongoing work, partially in the mental health and environment areas.</p> <p>A member reported that they had attended the last Youth Council Meeting and was very impressed with their motivation and fantastic ideas.</p> <p><i>7.15 pm Councillor Mark Canniford joined the meeting.</i></p> <p>RESOLVED: That the notes of the Youth Council meetings for January and February 2022 be received.</p>
<p>380</p>	<p>To approve Minutes of Meetings of the Planning Working Party as follows: 29th September, 20th October, 17th November, 15th December 2021, 12th January and 9th February 2022</p> <p>The minutes had been circulated prior to the meeting.</p> <p>It was noted that the Planning meetings were held via Zoom and were meeting as a Working party</p> <p>It was noted that a member had been quoted incorrectly on item 276 regarding a disable parking bay.</p> <p>PROPOSED-Councillor Jan Holloway SECONDED-Councillor Timothy Taylor</p> <p>A vote was taken and carried.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That with the above amendments, the minutes from the Planning Working Party be approved.</p>
<p>381</p>	<p>Neighbourhood and Response Policing in Weston-Super-Mare</p> <p>The Town Mayor welcomed Inspector Graeme Hall back to the meeting.</p> <p>Inspector Graeme Hall reported that he now had sole responsibility for drug crimes in the area and county lines continued to be the main issue in the area. The newly formed local remedy team had made 3 arrests and had another 3 suspects under investigation but there was still a lot of work to do, engaging with schools would be key to resolving this problem. Last week operation scorpion had taken place focusing on vulnerable children missing from schools which had been very successful.</p>

Mini Mall in Oxford street had also been successfully closed down due to a drug dealer. Antisocial behaviour was also another key area being focused on and a multi-agency approach had been taken with businesses such as McDonalds in the town centre now employing a security guard fulltime and the town centre team had increased presence and disbursing anti sociable behaviour.

The night time economy had been in the media in recent weeks due to the problems caused by the Young Farmer visit where the response teams had been supported by the remedy team to relive the issues.

More staff were due to come in to support this area and an update from the chief constable was due regarding resources.

Worle now had a new Sargent named Matthew Shaker and the main focus in this area was the Queensway retail park which had already seen good results from increased presence.

7.29 pm Councillor Sarah Codling left the meeting.

A member thanked the inspector for his efforts so far and was pleased to see he had a handle on the drug problems in the town.

A member had read in a press release that there had been 64 arrests in the area which was good to hear, but was saddened that the new style CCTV reports had not been received and therefore, suggested a letter be sent to NSC requesting them to inform the supplier that the council would like the promised reports.

The issue of dangerous parking on Weston hillside was raised and requested to be reported to the PCSO team.

The Town Mayor reported that a letter had been sent to the Young Farmers Association and a meeting was due to take place.

7.34 pm Councillor Sarah Codling re-joined the meeting.

RESOLVED- That the Town Clerk write to North Somerset Council regarding The receiving of CCTV reports.

382 Designation of Town Mayor and Deputy Town Mayor for the year 2022/2023

PROPOSED BY: Councillor Peter Fox
SECONDED BY: Councillor Peter Crew

A vote was taken and **carried**.

RESOLVED: That Councillor Sonia Russe be designated Town Mayor for the year 2022/2023.

It was therefore

PROPOSED BY: Councillor Catherine Gibbons
SECONDED BY: Councillor Timothy Taylor

	<p>A vote was taken and carried.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That Councillor Peter McAleer be designated Deputy Town Mayor for the year 2022/2023.</p>
383	<p>To Approve the Draft Calendar of Meetings for June 2022 to May 2023</p> <p>The proposed calendar of meetings had been circulated prior to the meeting.</p> <p>A member enquired if setting meetings in the Summer months of July and August would be a good idea due to holidays.</p> <p>The Town Clerk advised there had been a request 3 years ago to admit meetings from both Tourism & Leisure and Heritage & Arts in July and August but not Policy & Finance, although these dates had been avoided as much as possible.</p> <p>PROPOSED BY: Councillor Mark Canniford SECONDED BY: Councillor Sarah Codling</p> <p>A vote was taken and carried.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the draft Calendar of Meetings for June 2022 to May 2023 be approved.</p> <p><i>7.48 pm The members of the Youth Council left the meeting.</i></p>
384	<p>To approve budget for the free door entry system at Grove Park toilets excluded from the original proposal in January 2022</p> <p>The Deputy Town Clerk reported that in principle, it had been agreed that all Town Council toilets would be free but Grove Park had not been included in this decision as they had been closed. The decision had now been taken to reopen the site and permission was now being sought to approve an over spend of an estimated £5-7,000 per door to enable free access.</p> <p>It was questioned by a member that their understanding of the decision was that this included Grove Park toilets and so was disappointed to see this was back on the agenda.</p> <p>The Deputy Town Clerk reported that the estimated spend of £24-£28,000 would not be sufficient to cover the cost of replacing all site doors including Grove Park and so the procurement would need to be extended.</p> <p>It was suggested that the item go back to Policy & Finance Committee for discussion as the requested amount was substantial and also suggested that the Community Services Committee revisited the opening times for the site, to reduce the risk of vandalism.</p> <p>It was questioned by a member that the motion taken previously, had stated that all toilets would be free.</p> <p><i>7.56 pm Councillor Mark Canniford left the meeting.</i></p> <p>It was felt that this decision needed to be delayed as full costings would be needed for members to make an informed decision.</p>

	<p><i>7.59 pm Councillor Mark Canniford joined the meeting.</i></p> <p>PROPOSED BY: Councillor Robert Payne SECONDED BY: Councillor Peter Fox</p> <p>A vote was taken and carried 13 for and 9 against.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That once estimates for the three new doors for Grove Park toilets had been obtained, the decision to approve the over spend be referred to the Policy & Finance Committee and the Community Services Committee to decide opening times for the site.</p> <p><i>8.02 pm Inspector Graeme Hall left the meeting.</i></p>
<p>385</p>	<p>Annual Review of Standing Orders and Financial Regulations</p> <p>The Standing Orders and Financial Regulations had been previously circulated.</p> <p>The Leader informed that these had been scrutinised and was happy to propose them.</p> <p>PROPOSED BY: Councillor Alan Peak SECONDED BY: Councillor Ian Porter</p> <p>A vote was taken and carried.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the Standing Orders and Financial Regulations be approved.</p>
<p>386</p>	<p>To Approve the Updated Procurement Guide</p> <p>PROPOSED BY: Councillor Alan Peak SECONDED BY: Councillor Ian Porter</p> <p>A vote was taken and carried.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the updated Procurement Guide be approved.</p>
<p>387</p>	<p>Preferred Options Local Plan Consultation</p> <p>The Report of the Town Clerk was tabled due to the fact that the consultation had only been published 2 days previously.</p> <p>It was noted that the published document was in the third stage of the local plan and was a large 166-page document that members could collect and read from Grove House.</p> <p>There were links for responses online either individually, as a body or as a group.</p> <p>It was advised by a dual hatted member that in relation to Weston-Super-Mare the local plan would not make a large impact as the town was fully developed to the boundary.</p> <p><i>8.05 pm Councillor Marcia Pepperall left the meeting.</i></p> <p>A member requested a debrief from NSC was requested and a meeting held for residents and councillors to submit comments and public attendance.</p>

It was questioned whether this would be a good use of NSC Officer time considering the lack of impact the report had on Weston.

8.12 pm Councillor Marcia Pepperall re-joined the meeting.

It was noted that there would be a presentation of highlighted points displayed at The Campus.

PROPOSED-Councillor Helen Thornton

SECONDED-Councillor Alan Peak

RESOLVED-That the Town Clerk write to North Somerset Council requesting a zoom meeting be set up for Weston-Super-Mare residents and the Town Council to advertise the already set Facebook livestream on the subject.

The Town Mayor thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

There being no further business, the Town Mayor closed the meeting at 8.21 pm.

Signed: Dated:

Town Mayor