

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

Meeting Commenced: 7.00 pm

Meeting Concluded: 8.10 pm

PRESENT: Councillors Sonia Russe (Town Mayor), Dot Agassiz, Ray Armstrong, Roger Bailey, James Clayton, Peter Crew, John Crockford-Hawley, Ciaran Cronnelly, Peter Fox, Jan Holloway, Robert Payne, Alan Peak, Marcia Pepperall, Ian Porter, Helen Thornton, Timothy Taylor and Roz Willis.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Malcolm Nicholson (Town Clerk), Sarah Pearse (Deputy Town Clerk, Samantha Bishop (Committee Officer), Rebecca Saunders (Mayors Civic Officer/Committee Officer), Fay Powell (Assistant Town Clerk Operational Services), Becky Walsh (Communications Officer), Andy Chapel (Climate Change Officer), Reverend Peter Ashman (Town Mayors Chaplin), Paul Borthwick (member of the public)

The Town Mayor invited his Chaplain to say prayers.

197	Apologies for Absence and Notification of Substitutions Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mike Bell, Gill Bute, Mark Canniford, Gillian Carpenter, Sarah Codling, David Dash, Catherine Gibbons, Pete McAleer, Lisa Pilgrim and Richard Tucker. Councillors Marc Aplin, Dave Hitchins and Clare Morris were absent from the meeting. <i>Reverend Peter Ashman left the meeting at 7.07 pm</i>
198	To receive Declarations of Interest There were no declarations of Interest received.
199	To approve the accuracy of the Minutes of the Annual Council Meeting held on the 3rd October 2022 The Minutes had been previously circulated. PROPOSED BY: Councillor Alan Peak SECONDED BY: Councillor Peter Crew RESOLVED: That the minutes be approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record of the meeting.
200	Neighbourhood and Response Policing in Weston-Super-Mare It was noted that the Officer attending on behalf of Chief Inspector Graham Hall was not in attendance.

<p>201</p>	<p>To receive announcements and communications from The Town Mayor</p> <p>The Mayor’s announcements and communications were circulated prior to the meeting.</p> <p>There had been 28 engagements for the Mayor, 3 for The Deputy Mayor and 1 for the Leader which was a total of 138 to date.</p> <p>Significant dates were:</p> <p><u>5th October-Scouts Awards Evening</u> <u>11th October Anti Hate crime workshop</u> <u>22nd October RBL Breakfast Club Meet</u> <u>24th October Diwali Festive</u> <u>27th October Poppy Shop Launch</u> <u>29th October Hildesheim Exchange visitors lunch</u> <u>5th November WODS Bad Girls Performance</u> <u>11th Armistice Short Service</u> <u>14th November Remembrance Parade</u></p> <p>The Town Mayor highlighted on a further engagement not listed within the report on the 15th November. The inspiring and amazing work of the Boost Academy at their education centre for children not able to attend mainstream school.</p> <p>The Mayor noted that Councillor attendance at council events had been disappointing and encouraged their attendance.</p> <p>Councillor John Crockford-Hawley was invited to speak and raised two points; one that it was an extremely unusual year to be the Mayor in the time of two monarchs and also Lord Lieutenants. He then proposed a vote of thanks to the retiring Lord Lieutenant Annie Maw, who had served 8 years in office with a kind and caring nature for Weston-super-Mare. Two; That it was very embarrassing and rude for members not to rsvp or attend council events and encouraged attendance at the upcoming Christmas Lights Switch On 26th November. It was hoped to be a festive event with the warm addition of Cubs parading with lanterns alongside Councillors.</p> <p>The Town Mayor thanked and concurred with the comments and would be delighted to extend the council’s vote of thanks to Annie Maw for her years in office.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the Town Mayor on behalf of the Town Council extend a vote of thanks and appreciation to the retired Lord Lieutenant Annie Maw.</p>
<p>202</p>	<p>To receive the Notes of the Youth Council Meeting held in 2022</p> <p>It was noted that there had been no Youth Council meetings held between July – November, due to low numbers, school holidays the queens passing.</p> <p>A meeting had taken place on 11th November of which the notes had been circulated to members.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the notes of the Youth Council meeting for November 2022 be received.</p>
<p>203</p>	<p>Reference from the Community Services Committee held on 7th November 2022 Regarding North Somerset Council CCTV</p>

The minute extract from the Community Services Committee had been previously circulated.

The Chairman of the Community Services Committee proposed the recommendation and reported that following on from a site visit at the site, it was apparent that there would be problems siting and linking in permanent cameras.

A member reported that he had spoken to the Chairman of the NSC Scrutiny panel and was informed there were some spare mobile cameras that could be utilised at Grove Park toilets as an interim measure.

The Deputy Town Clerk updated that NSC had informed that they would struggle to site and link a camera because of problems with line of site. The council's funded mobile camera was currently in use on the Queensway and would need to be re sited if the council required it for use at Grove Park. There was no available budget for CCTV and the council's current CCTV contractors were working with NSC CCTV to try and create something covering Grove Park toilets. A further camera could be purchased at £6,000 but budget for this would need to be approved by council.

It was suggested that NSC had several mobile cameras that could be utilised and there were opportunities before approving further expenditure.

The Deputy Town Clerk confirmed that a formal quote from NSC had not been received due to the issues around siting.

To aid discussion, the Town Clerk advised that the council only needed to approve funds and that the choice of precise technology could be handled by the Community Services Committee and Officers. He therefore suggested that the wording of the recommendation be changed to approve funding.

PROPOSED BY: Councillor James Clayton

SECONDED BY: Councillor Peter Crew

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

RESOLVED:

1. To approve funding for the installation of two 360 degrees cameras to cover Grove Park toilets.
2. As an interim measure, to utilise mobile cameras to cover the site while a permanent solution was sought.

204 Civility and Respect Pledge

The Town Clerk's report had been previously circulated.

The Town Clerk affirmed that the report was not prompted by anybody at the town council but that it was a national project set up by a working group comprising representatives from across the sector including the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) and Society of Local Council Clerks (SLC), in response to growing concerns about the impact that bullying and intimidation is having on some councils, councillors and staff.

Initial research and analysis has showed that it is a minority of individuals across the sector who engage in poor behaviour but the impact is significant and felt by many people. Bullying and harassment can affect councillors as well as clerks, and can be by other councillors or even the clerk him or herself. With this in mind, the aim of the civility and respect project is to coordinate a programme of work designed to promote civility and respect in public life including good governance, positive debate and to support the wellbeing of councillors, professional clerks and staff.

The first, current phase was to ask all councils who support the project to sign up to the Civility and Respect Pledge. In the past decade or so central government had questioned whether there was councillor support for, for example, a stronger code of conduct and so the project asked councils to sign up to the Pledge at a full council meeting using the pledge wording outlined within the report.

The Town Clerk advised it was important for as many councils as possible, especially larger town councils, to support this national initiative for the sake of colleagues in other councils where this was a serious issue.

Members were supportive in principle but were saddened to see that common civility and respect needed to be formally adopted.

Concern was raised regarding the definition of the line or level of acceptable criticism, as members criticising each other's political beliefs in debate was the history behind politics and should not be lost in the process.

PROPOSED BY: Councillor Peter Crew

SECONDED BY: Councillor Roz Willis

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

RESOLVED: That the Council sign up to the Civility and Respect Pledge and the commitments set out within the report.

205 Castle Batch Play Area Funding

The Deputy Town Clerk's report had been previously circulated.

Consultation for the project began in April 2022, with SENCOs supporting the process to ensure it was accessible. With nearly 500 responses, the public consultation highlighted the level of desire and need within the community, and made it clear that the need went far beyond our budget provision.

Funding options were explored, with the target of doubling the original budget and the following funding has been confirmed:

- £20,000 - North Somerset Council: Improving Play Spaces Fund
- £30,000 – North Somerset Council: Section 106 contributions
- £46,868 - Community Infrastructure Levy
- £10,000 – National Lottery Community Fund
- Minimum £500 – Tesco Community Grant Blue Token Scheme (up to £1,500)
- £49,999 – Big Worle

The total raised so far was £357,367, which left a current shortfall of £42,633.

The contract had been awarded for a £400,000 scheme and the contractor had now confirmed that the final order for confirmed works and value was needed by the end of November 2022, to allow for manufacture and works to commence in January 2023 as scheduled. Whilst the council was continuing to explore further options for funding, it has to consider the possibility that it may not be able to fully reach the shortfall by the end of the November deadline for work orders.

With deadlines fast approaching members were asked to consider designating funding from next year's EMRRP budget to cover the project shortfall, to the value of £42,633, should additional funding not be secured by April 2023. And approve the order for unsecured monies £42,633 be raised to Sutcliffe play along with monies raised since the first order (£327,363) was placed to a total project value of £400,000, to allow full scheme delivery, notwithstanding that we will continue to source grant funding in the meantime.

The Town Clerk added that this project to create an accessible play area in Worle would be a big step forward for equality and inclusions and would be something of which the council could be proud.

Members were in full support of the project and were thankful to Officers for pushing Big Worle on committing to funding a fantastic facility for Worle, which would be a flagship project for the council.

In response to a question raised regarding levels of funding from Big Worle, it was clarified that they had a restricted annual budget for funding projects.

PROPOSED BY: Councillor Alan Peak

SECONDED BY: Councillor Peter Crew

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

RESOLVED:

1. To approve funding from next year's EMRRP budget to cover the project shortfall, to the value of £42,633, should additional funding not be secured by April 2023.
2. To approve the order for unsecured monies of £42,633, be raised to Sutcliffe play along with monies raised since the first order (£327,363) was placed to a total project value of £400,000.

206 Tree Nursery at Maltlands

The Deputy Town Clerk's report had been previously circulated.

The report had been received from Emily Burnell, a member of the Weston-super-Mare Tree Forum and details the proposal to establish a community tree nursery in the town at a site adjacent to the Maltland's Play Area – We See Trees C.T.N.

Members were requested to approve that officers in consultation with the Town Clerk, pursue negotiations with North Somerset Council to act as a governing body and take on the land at Maltlands, Locking Castle, Weston super Mare as an asset for use as a community tree nursery.

Members were in support of the proposal and agreed the piece of land in questions was an eye sore and would be used for a great purpose.

There was a query regarding the set up support costs mentioned within the report to which it was advised that this would be in the form of grounds resources i.e. watering.

It was noted that Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) monies would cover the costs of clearing the site and that the site was one out of three areas which had been funded from CIL monies with a management plan.

PROPOSED BY: Councillor Helen Thornton

SECONDED BY: Councillor Alan Peak

A vote was taken and accordingly it was **carried** For-16, Against-1, Abstained-2

RESOLVED: To approve that Officers in consultation with the Town Clerk pursue negotiations with North Somerset Council to act as governing body and take on the land at Maltlands, Locking Castle, Weston super Mare as an asset for use as a community tree nursery.

The Town Mayor thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

There being no further business, the Town Mayor closed the meeting at 8.10 pm.

Signed:

Dated:

Town Mayor