

**WESTON-SUPER- MARE TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT THE TOWN HALL ON
MONDAY 20th NOVEMBER 2023**

Meeting Commenced: 7.00 pm

Meeting Concluded: 8.47 pm

PRESENT: Councillors Ciaran Cronnelly (Town Mayor), Ray Armstrong, Roger Bailey, Joe Bambridge, Gill Bute, Mark Canniford, John Carson, Annabelle Chard, James Clayton, Jemma Coles, Peter Crew, John Crockford-Hawley, Catherine Gibbons, Simon Harrison-Morse, James Owen, Hugh Malyan, Robert Payne, Alan Peak, Justyna Pecak-Michalowicz, Marcia Pepperall, Caroline Reynolds, Robert Skeen, Timothy Taylor, Helen Thornton, Richard Tucker and Martin Williams.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Malcolm Nicholson (Town Clerk), Sarah Pearse (Deputy Town Clerk), Samantha Bishop (Committee Officer/Manager), Fay Powell (Assistant Town Clerk – Operational Services), Becky Walsh (Communications Officer), Inspector Graeme Hall (Avon & Somerset Police), Ali Waller (Operations Manager – YMCA), Natalie Purkiss (Head of Early Years and Youth Provision for the YMCA) and 8 members of the Youth Council/ YMCA youth services.

217 Apologies for Absence and Notification of Substitutions

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mike Bell, Gill Bute, Lisa Pilgrim, John Standfield and Charlie Williams.

218 To receive Declarations of Interest

There were none received.

219 To approve the accuracy of the Minutes of the Town Meeting on the 25th September 2023

The minutes had been previously circulated.

PROPOSED BY: Councillor John Crockford-Hawley

SECONDED BY: Councillor Hugh Malyan

RESOLVED: That the minutes be approved and signed by the Mayor as a true record of the meeting.

220 To receive announcements and communications from The Town Mayor

The Mayor's announcements and communications had been circulated prior to the meeting.

There had been 43 engagements attended by the Mayor and 11 by the Deputy Mayor; which was a total of 151 to date.

Significant events had been:

29th September-Weston Hospice Grand Opening

4th October-Axe Scouts AGM & Annual Awards Evening

7th October Somewhere to Go Hub Launch

14th October Weston Hospice Moonlight Walk
28th October- RBL Poppy Appeal Launch
10th November-Poppy Train – Special mention
12th November-Remembrance Service – thank you to all involved.
14th November-Christmas Card Competition Closed – The winner was announced at
surprised at School. 181 entries which would all be displayed in the Museum on 16th
December.

Upcoming events were:

20th November -Trans Remembrance Day
23rd November-VANS Annual Conference
28th November- Diwali Festival of Light
2nd December Christmas Light Switch On
12th-17th December-Hildesheim Visit
16th December-Christmas Card entries exhibition

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

221 Neighbourhood and Response Policing in Weston-Super-Mare

The Town Mayor welcomed and invited Inspector Graeme Hall to address the meeting who reported on the following areas:

Inspector Hall said that the Carnival had been a success from a Police perspective and advised on the following matters:

Remembrance & Armistice Day – were also successful, given ongoing tensions and conflicts in the background with national events and Police. It was noted that Weston's hate crime level is very low.

Operations had been deployed tackling county lines targeting young girls.

Unauthorised encampments – The Police and Community Response had been very effective in tackling this.

The ongoing issues with anti-social behaviour and criminality in the town centre, particularly the Alexandra Parade bus terminal and assaults to bus drivers by a group of young people/children, were actively being targeted. This needed a multi-agency approach to tackle and he was confident that a purely enforcement approach would not work long term. There was an underlying social problem that other services needed to join to address as the Police could not do this on their own. There had been an incident over the weekend where a 16 yr old was assaulted. The team were working on tracing the attacking gang who had been wearing balaclavas. There were two officers dedicated to the town centre daily, (Operation Avatar) trying to protect businesses. There was a group of 12 young people already known to the criminal justice system. The Police were trying to reassure the public that they were tackling this.

Members were extremely concerned to hear about the level of criminality committed by such young people/children and were aware that this was a deeper social issue.

The Inspector agreed that it was a complex issue, given the age of the offenders and that some of them were at risk themselves in their home environment. However fixed penalty notices would start to be issued to the parent /guardians where appropriate, which may have an impact.

	<p>Some members felt that this was a national issue, which needed government intervention via the town's MP. The Police and NSC were doing all that could to target this.</p> <p>Members thanked the Inspector and were grateful for the highlighting of these serious societal problems which were exacerbated by a lack of youth provision and the dangers through the internet and exploitation of vulnerable people.</p> <p>Compliments to the PSCO's on their work tackling the ASB in Worle were given.</p> <p><i>The Town Mayor thanked Chief Inspector Hall for his report and he left at 7.46 pm</i></p>
222	<p>To receive the Notes of the Youth Council Meeting held on the 10th October 2023</p> <p>The notes of the meeting had been previously circulated.</p> <p>The Town Mayor welcomed members of the Youth Council to the meeting.</p> <p>It was queried that there had been a lack of youth grants awarded. The Youth Council had identified this and had written to local community groups to promote this.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the report be noted.</p>
223	<p>To formally approve and adopt the Council's Risk Register for the year 2023/2024</p> <p>The report of the Deputy Town Clerk and Action Plan had been previously circulated.</p> <p>The format of the risk register was criticised as allowed for poor decision making. Members would like to see the medium risks minimised.</p> <p>The Deputy Town Clerk advised that the risk register was being reviewed by the E&G WP and accepted the point that the risk register was not fully fit for purpose. This needed in depth exploration.</p> <p>PROPOSED BY: Councillor Peter Crew SECONDED BY: Councillor Martin Williams</p> <p>A vote was taken and accordingly it was carried.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the Council's Risk Register and Action Plan for the year 2023/2024 be approved.</p>
224	<p>To approve changes to the Committee Terms of Reference</p> <p>The report of the Town Clerk and recommendation of the Personnel Committee Meeting held on 12th July 2023 had been previously circulated.</p> <p>PROPOSED BY: Councillor Tim Taylor SECONDED BY: Councillor Martin Williams</p> <p>A vote was taken and accordingly it was carried.</p> <p>RESOLVED: To add the following to the Personnel Committee's terms of reference:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To oversee Equality and Diversity Policies and associated reviews and

undertaking of working practices in this area.

2. To oversee Health and Wellbeing Policies and associated reviews and undertaking of working practices in this area. And:

3. That the Town Clerk add and keep up to date a list of personnel policies, appended to the end of the Personnel Committee's terms of reference.

225 Town Council Vehicles – Lease / contract expiry and vehicle requirements

The report of the Deputy Town Clerk / Grounds Manager was deferred and would be considered at the Policy & Finance Committee on 18th December.

226 To renew the Youth Services Service Level Agreement (SLA) with the YMCA

The report from the Town Clerk including a recommendation had been previously circulated.

Ali Waller, Operations Manager of the Somerset YMCA, was invited to give a presentation of the YMCA's Youth Work. A personal account by a young individual who had used the youth service was also given in person.

The Town Mayor and fellow members applauded the young person for their courage in addressing the council and thanked them for their moving account.

A question and answer session then took place:

Ali confirmed that a location for an Uphill youth provision had not been secured, that the Youth centre in Bournville Ward attracted young people from all three estates and parents were encouraged to bring their children.

The YMCA were experiencing staff retention problems as youth work was not considered a good career and staff were lost to social work. Covid had also hugely affected services.

A member said it would be poor decision making to approve a 5 year SLA as he felt that insufficient information and hard data had been supplied to them by the Town Clerk. He also queried the hours of youth work that the council would be funding.

The Town Clerk apologised if members felt there was not enough data supplied in order to decide and suggested that the decision could be deferred. However, this would affect the budget setting process starting at Policy and Finance Committee in December.

The council was advised that an updated proposal, indicating 27 hrs of youth work per week had been submitted to the council. It had been circulated to Community Services members.

An amendment to the recommendation was posed, given the lack of data received. This was that the council agree the continuation of the current SLA initially for one year until April 2025, to allow the council time to scrutinise and see more data.

The Deputy Town Clerk advised that current SLA figure for the 2024/25 budget was £74,613, subject to CPI and inflation.

Debate ensued and the proposition was challenged by opposing members. The Chair of

Community Services Committee , who had been part of the working group that that had discussed the SLA , reminded members that the youth service SLA had been in the council's budget for 10 years and added that the service included provision of daily meals to children.

Natalie Purkiss, Head of Early Years and Youth Provision for the YMCA advised that whilst the team were very secure in the data reported, they could provide more specific information if required. The service was still in a post covid recovery period and was trying to adapt and streamline to the social issues to have the biggest impact.

Ali explained that by not renewing the SLA for the full 5 years, this could have an impact on service delivery, especially helping to target ASB in the town centre also that staff notice periods would need to be considered. Long term funding allowed the YMCA to plan ahead and secure partnerships with other agencies.

For clarity, all members had been sent an email from the Town Clerk ahead of the meeting, containing the draft updated SLA.

It was then:

PROPOSED BY: Councillor John Crockford-Hawley

SECONDED BY: Councillor Martin Williams

A vote was taken (12 for; 12 against). The Mayor then gave his casting vote in favour of the proposal which was therefore **carried**:

RESOLVED: That the council agrees the continuation of the current Service Level Agreement (SLA) with the YMCA until April 2025, to allow the council time to scrutinise the proposed SLA.

227 **Big Worle – to consider becoming their Local Trusted Organisation**

The report from the Town Clerk had been previously circulated.

PROPOSED BY: Councillor Peter Crew

SECONDED BY: Councillor Roger Bailey

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

RESOLVED: That the Town Council agrees to become the Local Trusted Organisation for Big Worle for a period not exceeding March 2026 and authorise s the Town Clerk to settle and sign a Memorandum of Understanding with Local Trust accordingly.

228 **Committee Membership Changes**

PROPOSED BY: Councillor Martin Williams

SECONDED BY: Councillor Roger Bailey

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

RESOLVED: That

1. Councillor Peter Crew replace Councillor John Standfield on the Planning Committee.
2. Councillor Marcia Pepperall replace Councillor Pecak-Michalowicz on the

Personnel Committee.

The Town Mayor thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

There being no further business, the Town Mayor closed the meeting at 8.47 pm.

Signed:

Dated:

Town Mayor