

**WESTON-SUPER-MARE TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT
THE TOWN HALL ON
MONDAY 10TH MARCH 2014**

Meeting Commenced: 7.00 p.m.

Meeting Concluded: 7.45 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillors Keith Morris (Town Mayor), Peter Crew (Leader of the Town Council), Raymond Armstrong, Roger Bailey, Mark Canniford, Clive Darke, Peter Fox, David Hitchins Jan Holloway, Cyril King, Clare Kingsbury - Bell, Michal Kus, Michael Lyall, Frederick Parsons, Robert Payne, Alan Peak, Lisa Pilgrim, Ian Porter, Len Purnell, Sonia Russé, Simon Stokes, Tim Taylor, Richard Tucker, Rose Warwick and Roz Willis

IN ATTENDANCE: Malcolm Nicholson (Town Clerk), Sarah Pearse (Responsible Financial Officer) Samantha Middlemiss (Committee Officer), Chris Millard (Mayors Civic Officer), Joc Holder (Mayoress), Councillor Dawn Payne (North Somerset Council) Barbara Seaton (Chairman of Senior Community Link), Ann Ricahrds (Director of CAB) and Reverend ?? (part attendance).

The Town Mayor invited, Reverend?? to say prayers.

Prior to the commencement of the meeting the Town Mayor invited questions from parishioners.

Barbara Seaton addressed the meeting as Chairman of Senior Community Link and informed of their establishment and purpose and asked for the Town Council’s support with raising awareness of isolation and loneliness in the over 80’s community in Weston-super-Mare.

	<p>To receive Apologies for Absence</p> <p>Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Michael Bell, John Crockford-Hawley, Derek Mead, Tony Probert and Clive Webb.</p> <p>It was informed that Councillor Ian Porter would arrive late at the meeting.</p>
	<p>Declarations of Interest</p> <p>There were no declarations of interest received.</p>
	<p>To approve the accuracy of the Minute of the Town Council Meetings held on 20th January 2014.</p> <p>The minutes had been previously circulated with the agenda.</p> <p>It was identified that minute number 373 the word ‘Group’ needed to be removed to read ‘Labour Party’.</p> <p>PROPOSED: Councillor Peter Crew SECONDED: Councillor Roz Willis</p> <p>RESOLVED: That with the above amendment the minutes be signed and approved.</p>
	<p>To receive announcements and communications from the Town Mayor</p> <p>The Town Mayor informed that he had to-date attended 196 engagements.</p>

	<p>The Town Mayor reported that February and March had been a quiet period and that the Mayors Charity Ball on Saturday 15th March was the main up and coming event.</p> <p>A report from the Armed Forces Covenant Steering Group Meeting on 24th February 2014 had been previously circulated and the Town Mayor clarified that there was not another grant and that the report was for noting.</p>
	<p>Citizens Advice Bureau</p> <p>The Mayor invited Anne Richards, Director of the Citizens Advice Bureau to present to the meeting.</p> <p>Ann Richards thanked the Town Council for the invitation to attend and present a PowerPoint presentation reported on what the CAB does and offers to the people of North Somerset. The PowerPoint covered an array of statistics and information including the following;</p> <p>There were 330 CAB's across the country North Somerset has seen 5,000 people since the beginning of January 2014. The CAB had two aims which were to aim to provide advice to people that need it for the problems they face and to improve the policies and practices that affect people's lives. The National statistic is that Debt and Benefits were the highest ranking issues dealt with by the CAB. The Government had removed the provision of legal aid after loss of a contract which resulted in a loss of £75k for the CAB.</p> <p><i>Councillor Ian Porter joined the meeting at 7.35 p.m.</i></p> <p>PROPOSED BY: Councillor Peter Crew SECONDED BY: Councillor Roz Willis</p> <p>RESOLVED: That standing orders be suspended at 7.37p.m. to enable a question and answer session to take place.</p> <p>In the answer to various questions asked it was informed that debt was a steady issue and that the service had to be recently closed due to a six week wait for an appointment.</p> <p>There had been a big increase in benefit issues since the cuts to the benefit system.</p> <p>South ward had high statistics for benefit issues and this was predominately down to the amount of rented accommodation in the area. Councillors were invited to visit the CAB centres and sit in on a counselling session, with the permission of the client to gain an insight on how the CAB can assist people.</p> <p>RESOLVED: Standing orders were resumed at 7.40 p.m.</p>
	<p>Approval of Final Earmarked Reserve requirement for 2013-2014</p> <p>The report of the Responsible Financial Officer indicating the draft estimates for Earmarked Reserves for the year ending 31.03.14 and identified requirements for 2014/2015 had been previously circulated and was available to view at the meeting.</p> <p>PROPOSED BY: Councillor Peter Crew</p>

	<p>SECONDED BY: Councillor Michel Kus</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the Final Earmarked Reserve requirement for 2013-2014 be approved.</p>
	<p>Timetable for yearend closedown of accounts The report of the Responsible Financial Officer outlining the Timetable for yearend closedown of account had been previously circulated with the agenda.</p> <p>The report of the Responsible Financial Officer advised that this was standard annual practice to approve.</p> <p>PROPOSED BY: Councillor Peter Crew SECONDED BY: Councillor Roger Bailey</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the Timetable for yearend closedown of accounts be approved.</p> <p><i>Ann Richards left the meeting at 7.41 p.m.</i></p>
	<p>Designation of Mayor 2014-2015</p> <p>One nomination for the position of Mayor 2014-2015 was received and voted upon.</p> <p>PROPOSED BY: Councillor Lisa Pilgrim SECONDED BY: Councillor David Hitchins</p> <p>RESOLVED: That Councillor Roz Willis be elected Mayor for the year 2014-2015.</p> <p>Designation of Deputy Mayor 2014-2015</p> <p>Two nominations for the position of Deputy Mayor 2014-2015 were received and voted upon.</p> <p>PROPOSED BY: Councillor Robert Payne SECONDED BY: Councillor Peter Crew</p> <p>RESOLVED: That Councillor Raymond Armstrong be elected Deputy Mayor for the year 2014-2015.</p>
	<p>There being no further business, the Town Mayor invited everyone to join him in a reception and closed the meeting at 7.45 p.m.</p> <p>Signed: Dated: Town Mayor</p>