

**WESTON-SUPER-MARE TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT
THE TOWN HALL ON
MONDAY 7TH JULY 2014**

Meeting Commenced: 7.00 pm

Meeting Concluded: 8.05 pm

PRESENT: Councillors Roz Willis (Town Mayor), Peter Crew (Leader of the Town Council), Raymond Armstrong, Mark Canniford, John Crockford-Hawley, Peter Fox, David Hitchins, Jan Holloway, Cyril King, Clare Kingsbury-Bell, Michal Kus, Mike Lyall, Derek Mead, Keith Morris, Frederick Parsons, Robert Payne, Alan Peak, Lisa Pilgrim, Ian Porter, Len Purnell, Sonia Russé, Simon Stokes (part attendance), Tim Taylor, Richard Tucker and Holly Young.

IN ATTENDANCE: Malcolm Nicholson (Town Clerk), Samantha Middlemiss (Committee Officer), Chris Millard (Mayors Civic Officer), Pete Holder (Mayor's recipient) and Jocelyn Holder and Reverend Keith Berry-Davis.

The Town Mayor requested Councillors to take part in a one minutes silence in respect of former Town Council colleagues Chas Heard, Tony Probert and Paula Kennedy.

The Town Mayor invited Reverend Keith Berry-Davis to say prayers.

Prior to the commencement of the meeting the Town Mayor invited questions from parishioners of which there were none.

123.	<p>To receive Apologies for Absence</p> <p>Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Roger Bailey, Mike Bell, Clive Darke, Simon Stokes, Rose Warwick and Clive Webb.</p> <p>Discussion took place over the room layout of the Old Chamber and it was requested that all future Town Council Meetings be held in the New Chamber where it was more equipped for meetings in terms of seating, room layout and microphones.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the Town Clerk would arrange for all future Town Council meetings to be held in the New Council Chamber.</p>
124.	<p>Declarations of Interest</p> <p>There were no declarations of interest received.</p>
125.	<p>To approve the accuracy of the Minutes of the Annual Town Council Meeting and ceremony of Mayor Making held on 15th May 2014.</p> <p>The Minutes had been previously circulated with the agenda.</p> <p>PROPOSED BY: Councillor Peter Crew SECONDED BY: Councillor Dave Hitchins</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the minutes be signed and approved.</p>

<p>127.1</p> <p>127.2</p>	<p>implications and the official opening and rebranding and recommended two options for consideration.</p> <p>The Leader of the Council reported that the Town Council were happy to be out of the lease on the South Parade premises and were looking forward to the future of the transfer of the Youth Café service to Lower Bristol premises and felt that the re branding of the facility should be left to the YMCA.</p> <p>Councillors felt that they would like the Town Council to have some input into the re branding of the facility and the Town Mayor advised that this would be discussed at a future meeting of the Town Council once the YMCA had come back to the Town Council with their decision.</p> <p>The Town Clerk suggested that the Chairman of the Community Services Committee and the designated Youth Services Champion, Councillor Clare Kingsbury-Bell should be involved in the rebranding process on behalf of the Town Council.</p> <p>RESOLVED:</p> <p>1. That the new brand name for the Youth Café be decided by the YMCA in consultation with the Chairman of the Community Services Committee and the designated Youth Services Champion.</p> <p>2. Members who wished to attend the official reopening of the YMCA premises on Friday 11th July 2014 to notify Rob Penney, YMCA manager.</p>
<p>128.</p>	<p>The Town Mayor brought forward item 8 on the agenda to be discussed at this point in the meeting.</p> <p>To consider funding for the Museum HLF Project</p> <p>The reference from the Museum Working Party meeting held on 24th June 2014 had been previously circulated with the agenda which recommended to consider the use of general reserves to support the HLF bid at the Museum.</p> <p>The Leader of the Council advised that members were concerned at the initial costings associated with the project and due to the unsuccessful grant aid applications an alternative plan was needed to support the HLF bid. It was the opinion of the Museum Working Party that if the Town Council was willing to contribute more financial support then they were likely to receive more in terms of HLF grant aid. It was therefore proposed that the Town Council allocate £200,000 of its general reserves to support the HLF bid.</p> <p>The Town Mayor invited the Chairman of the Museum Working Party to add anything to support the Leaders proposal. The Chairman accepted and advised that all had gone according to plan and that it was a stage by stage project, which as it had progressed certain elements of the plan had changed, such as the courtyard element which had been advised by the architect to include, but could be removed if the funds are not received. The architects and designers were working very hard and HLF were pleased with the progress. Now that the first hurdle was behind us, an increased contribution would be a promising sign moving forward.</p>

	<p><i>Councillor Simon Stokes joined the Meeting at 7.31 pm</i></p> <p>PROPOSED BY: Councillor Peter Crew SECONDED BY: Councillor John Crockford-Hawley</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the Town Council agrees in principal to the use of £200,000 from general reserves to support the HLF bid at the Museum.</p>
<p>129.</p>	<p><i>That under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public and representatives of the press and broadcast media be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following items of business as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.</i></p>
<p>130.</p>	<p>Christmas Lights Tenders</p> <p>The Town Clerk’s report had been previously circulated with the agenda which outlined provision from 2009-2013, current proposals, assessments and a recommendation.</p> <p>A further financial summary report of the Responsible Financial Officer had been previously circulated with the agenda on red paper and also a confidential options appraisal report from the Town Centre Partnership Manager had been previously circulated to members.</p> <p>The Town Clerk advised that the tender process had been conducted on a quality basis to a set budget so the Council was not bound to accept the lowest tender but could choose the best offer. He reported that he had obtained references from all 5 companies apart from MK which were all relatively complimentary. Uniquely, Gala Lights had offered to supply Christmas Lights in the Milton Road shopping parade.</p> <p>The Leader of the Council proposed to shortlist 2 out of the 5 contactors as and pursue selection in conjunction with Group Leaders.</p> <p>Debate ensued.</p> <p>It was informed that 30 years ago it had been suggested that a conifer tree be planted in the Italian Gardens for a future Christmas Tree which would now have been perfect and would alleviate all the incurred erection and dismantling costs.</p> <p>The general opinion of the Town Council’s Christmas Lights over the years was that they were not considered very impressive. A more high quality, less decorative scheme was needed that could be kept up all year round to alleviate all the incurred erection and dismantling costs and utilised at other times of the year. Some of the most impressive Christmas Lights were that of one colour.</p> <p>It was queried why the lights needed to be taken down as opposed to being left up all year round. It was assumed that this was due to possible deterioration compared to being kept in storage and the Town Clerk agreed to enquire further.</p>

<p>130.1</p> <p>130.2</p> <p>130.3</p>	<p>It was pointed out that all lights were now LED and so leaving them up should not be an issue and the electricity costs for running them were minimal. The idea of utilising the lights for other events was raised and the Town Council needed to investigate the option for leaving the lights up all year round further as the erection and take down costs could potentially cost more than the product itself.</p> <p>The Leader of the Council proposed that whichever contractors were selected all comments regarding colour schemes and design and erection costs would be delegated to the Expenditure and Governance Working Party for consideration and consulted on by the Carnival Committee.</p> <p>It was agreed that visual impact was key. It was requested that the Town Council ensured that they were covered by a maintenance contract. The age of some of the High Street buildings was also raised as a consideration as to whether the lights could be safely kept up all year round.</p> <p>The Town Clerk advised that a decision would need to be delegated in order to meet production deadlines as the date of the next Town Council meeting would be too late to allow time for the manufacture of new lights.</p> <p>The Leader of the Council suggested that it could be delegated to a special meeting of Expenditure & Governance Working Party.</p> <p>PROPOSED BY: Councillor Peter Crew SECONDED BY: Councillor Simon Stokes</p> <p>RESOLVED:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To agree to let a new three year contract for Christmas Lighting, with the option to extend to a further two years, as reported. 2. That a special meeting of the Expenditure & Governance Working Party be called to select as contractor either Gala Lights, Festive Lighting or Lamps and Tubes, to negotiate on any remaining issues and to finalise a contract accordingly, in consultation with Group Leaders. 3. In the meantime the Town Clerk investigate the option of leaving the lights up all year round and the assurance of a maintenance contract in time for consideration at the special meeting of the Expenditure & Governance Working Party.
	<p>In respect of political balance it was noted that Councillor Tim Taylor would substitute for the Labour vacancy until the by-election date in September 2014.</p>

There being no further business, the Town Mayor closed the meeting at 8.05 pm

Signed:
Town Mayor

Dated: