

**WESTON-SUPER-MARE TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT
THE TOWN HALL ON
MONDAY 19TH JANUARY 2015**

Meeting Commenced: 7.00 p.m.

Meeting Concluded: 8.10 p.m.

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Malcolm Nicholson (Town Clerk), Sarah Pearse (Responsible Financial Officer), Helen Morton (Finance Officer), Samantha Bishop (Committee Officer), Chris Millard (Mayor's Civic Officer), Jocelyn Holder (Mayoress), Reverend Keith Berry-Davies and Becky Parker (Weston & Somerset Mercury).

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

329	To receive Apologies for Absence It was noted that Councillor Tim Taylor would be late to the meeting.
330	Declarations of Interest There were no declarations of interest received. At this point in the meeting Councillor Cyril King announced that he and Councillor Rose Warwick had resigned from the Labour Group. In response to this announcement Councillor Richard Tucker said that despite the Labour Group's disappointment they would continue to hold civil dialogue with both Councillors. <i>Councillor Derek Mead joined the meeting at 7.04 pm.</i>
331	To approve the accuracy of the Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 17th November 2014 PROPOSED BY: Councillor Peter Crew SECONDED BY: Councillor Michal Kus RESOLVED: That the minutes be signed and approved.
332	To receive announcements and communications from the Town Mayor The Town Mayor announced that the Pink Night would be held at the Royal Hotel on 1 st April 2015 and the Charity Night at the Viceroy Indian Restaurant on the 23 rd February 2015. All donations would be gratefully received. The Town Mayor informed that she had to-date attended 238 engagements and thanked the

	<p>Mayoress for continuing in the role, attending engagements, whilst the Mayor's husband was in hospital.</p> <p>The Town Mayor's Children's Christmas Party held on Sunday the 11th January 2015 at Weston Football Club, was a huge success. There were over 150 children and 50 adults present. Members questioned whether the party would be an annual event? The Mayor advised that it would be up to each individual Mayor to decide. It was suggested, however, that former Mayors and Mayoress s could perhaps hold a children's party at some point next year. The Mayor expressed her gratitude and thanked all who had helped make the children's party a success which included Sainsbury's who had donated an extremely generous buffet, worth over £300.00, and also a hamper which would be raffled off to raise money for the Mayor's Charity fund; Weston Football Club for the venue and holding the party; the Mayors' Civic Officer for arranging the event; Councillor Roger Bailey for collecting the food and former ex-Mayor Paula Howell and Mary Millard for their help on the day.</p> <p>The Town Mayor reminded all Councillors that before the commencement of the next Town Council Meeting on 16th March they would need arrive early, at a time to be announced, for the end of term photograph.</p>
333	<p>To review Standing Orders and Financial Regulations</p> <p>333.1 Standing Orders A copy of the Standing Orders had been referred from the Policy & Finance Committee and had been previously circulated with the agenda.</p> <p>333.2 Financial Regulations A copy of the Financial Regulations had been previously circulated with the agenda.</p> <p>PROPOSED BY: Councillor Peter Crew SECONDED BY: Councillor Len Purnell</p> <p>RESOLVED: That both Standing Orders and Financial Regulations stay on the table for one meeting cycle to allow time for any changes from members for final approval at the Town Council Meeting on 16th March 2015.</p> <p>333.3 Finance Procedures for electronic payments The report of the Responsible Financial Officer recommending approval of the Finance Procedures for electronic payments had been previously circulated with the agenda.</p> <p>PROPOSED BY: Councillor Peter Crew SECONDED BY: Councillor Len Purnell</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the Responsible Financial Officer's recommended Finance Procedures for electronic payments be approved.</p>
334	<p><i>The Council at the request of the Town Mayor resolved to alter the order of business (Standing Order 13.1.4) and accordingly agenda item 7 'was brought forward.</i></p> <p>To agree the Town Council Budget and Precept for 2015/2016 A copy of the Budget and Precept for 2015/2016 as recommended by the Policy and Finance Committee had been previously circulated with the agenda.</p>

An adjustment to the budget proposed by the Policy and Finance Committee from the Leader of the Council was circulated at the meeting as follows:

1. Capital Projects:

Increase Capital Projects by £20,000

2. Tourism:

Decrease BID income by £4,000

Decrease Tourism Advertising by £2,095

3. Civic:

Increase catering budget 2015/2016 by £2,000

These adjustments would result in a 0% increase on cost for a Band D property and a total budget requirement of £1,583,417.

The Leader of the Council thanked fellow Councillors for their co-operation through the budget setting process, thanked the Finance team for their continual hard work and then moved the budget including his adjustments.

PROPOSED BY: Councillor Peter Crew

SECONDED BY: Councillor Clive Webb

MOTION: To approve the proposed budget 2015/16 with the adjustments circulated.

The Leader was asked to expand on his reasoning behind the decrease in the Business Improvement District (BID) income to which he advised that this was separate from the BID SLA and that BID had initially offered the Town Council £4,000 to fund a mobile vehicle which was included within the budget. However, it had transpired that the BID were under the impression that the vehicle would remain situated on the seafront which would not demonstrate the Town Council's destination marketing plans to travel outside the town and appear at shows. As a result, it was decided to remove the £4,000 funding from the BID and to pursue the option of the Town Council buying or renting its own vehicle.

It was queried what would be taken from the advertising budget to fund this and the Leader informed that the advertising budget had been reduced by £2,000.

Councillor Tim Taylor joined the meeting at 7.20 pm.

A summary of staffing costs across the Town Council was requested and the Town Clerk advised that the increase was £649,000 to £678,000, the largest increase being in grounds staffing as approved by Personnel Committee. This was an overall increase of 5% + inflation.

A breakdown of these costs were as follows:

4. 4% + Central Admin
5. 1% + Planned Maintenance
6. 25% + Grounds
7. 6% - Blakehay
8. 87% - Tourism
9. 3% + Museum (precautionary basis HLF)

An **AMENDMENT** was then proposed.

PROPOSED BY: Councillor Robert Payne
SECONDED BY: Councillor Claire Kingsbury-Bell

1. To remove the charges for the toilets
2. To remove the £6,500 income for the toilets
3. To remove the charge for the Water Park for residents only
4. and to reduce the Water Park income to £8,000 to accommodate for the removal of the charge for residents

These changes would be funded from the £20,000 proposed to increase Capital Projects.

The Leader responded by accepting that the toilets had cost the Town Council more than expected which was due to vandalism. The Police had, however, identified the culprits and they had been moved out of the town. The Town Council had protected the toilets from closure and it does not make sense to remove the minimal toilet charge.

In response to the proposal to remove the Water Park charge, the Town Council pays approximately £20,000 per year on loan repayments and the money charged covers this repayment charge. A residents' discount scheme would be investigated with the fees and charges which would be discussed at the next Expenditure & Governance meeting. The Town Council were also entering into negotiations with North Somerset Council regarding the Water Park being staffed by Weston Welcomers.

The Museum project was the number one priority for the next 5 years and the Town Council needed to commit as much money to it as was possible.

Support was shown by the Labour Group for the removal of the Water Park charge for residents and removal of the toilet charge. The Leader of the Council's argument for charging for the toilets and the Water Park was challenged as it was considered inconsistent and that the same theories should be applied across all services.

Debate ensued.

The view was expressed that if people paid for something, it was proven that it was more respected and valued.

To implement a residents' scheme at the Water Park would cost too much not only financially but in staff time to enforce. It would be impossible to avoid abuse of any scheme. Members were reminded of the historic reasoning behind staffing the Water Park which was to control the usage of the park at busy and peak times.

AMENDMENT:

A vote was taken and the Amendment was **lost** (12 for; 15 against; 3 abstentions)

PROPOSITION:

There being no further amendments, a vote was taken on the proposition which was **carried** (17 for; 8 against; 1 abstention)

	<p>RESOLVED: That the 2015/16 budget as proposed by the Policy and Finance Committee, with the adjustments set out below be approved:</p> <p>334.1 Capital Projects Increase Capital Projects by £20,000</p> <p>334.2 Tourism Decrease BID income by -£4,000 Decrease Tourism Advertising by - £2,095</p> <p>334.3 Civic Increase catering budget 2015/2016 by £2,000</p> <p>The Responsible Financial Officer advised that this resulted in a total Precept request of £1,389,396 which had a 0% increase on a Band D property.</p> <p><i>Councillor Ian Porter left the meeting at 7.50 pm.</i></p>
335	<p>Motion to Council – Traffic problems on Earlham Grove <i>“That the Town Council is very concerned about the traffic congestion on Earlham Grove and the danger of a personal injury or fatal accident relating to the Children’s Centre, Ashcombe Primary School and the cycle path crossing; and urges North Somerset Council to implement measures to reduce traffic speeds in the Earlham Grove area”</i></p> <p>Councillor Michael Lyall reported that the traffic problems on Earlham Grove had been ongoing for over 12 months and had been heightened by the excessive use of the Ashcombe Children’s Centre which was bursting at the seams and Springboard want to expand into a nursery. There was no school patrol in place and the parking was horrendous and complaints had been received from residents regarding their boundary walls cracking under the pressure of pavement parking. Milton Park School has amber flashing light school signs on 3 surrounding roads and a patrol crossing. Ashcombe School has none of these arrangements in place and desperately needs it. Hughenden Road also needs a speed hump at the cycle path crossing already there.</p> <p>The Leader of the Council supported the motion and added that the Town Council should also in addition, write to North Somerset Council regarding its concerns for other schools in general at the lack of measures in place to reduce traffic speeds. He also proposed that an invitation be extended for Mandy Bishop to attend the next meeting of the full Town Council on 16th March 2015 to advise on the plans being pursued with the Police.</p> <p>A further councillor reported that he had meetings with the Highways department regarding the problem and had received the response from Highway Engineers that they were currently looking into patrols and speed limits. However, their budget only allowed for one scheme per year and that Ashcombe School was on the list but was not a priority to address.</p> <p>It was added that there had been longstanding efforts for the return of a patrol crossing at Ashcombe School. It would help alleviate the over subscription issues at the Ashcombe Children’s Centre if a Central Children’s Centre was formed. School safety was a town wide problem which needed a blanket approach. School safety needed a higher profile and a priority which needed to be moved higher up the agenda.</p> <p>PROPOSED BY: Councillor Mike Lyall SECONDED BY: Councillor Peter Crew</p>

	<p>UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:</p> <p>335.1 That the Town Clerk write a letter to North Somerset Council explaining that the Town Council is very concerned about the traffic congestion on Earlham Grove and the danger of a personal injury or fatal accident relating to the Children's Centre, Ashcombe Primary School and the cycle path crossing; and urges North Somerset Council to implement measures to reduce traffic speeds in the Earlham Grove area.</p> <p>335.2 That Mandy Bishop (North Somerset Council) be invited to the next meeting of the Town Council on the 16th March to inform of the plans in place with the Police for School safety.</p> <p>Councillor Mike Lyall thanked the Council for their support with the motion.</p>
	<p>There being no further business, the Town Mayor closed the meeting at 8.10 p.m.</p> <p>Signed: Dated: Town Mayor</p>