

**WESTON-SUPER-MARE TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
HELD ON 21st APRIL 2016
AT THE BLAKEHAY THEATRE**

Meeting Commenced: 7.00 pm

Meeting Concluded: 7.38 pm

PRESENT: Councillors Raymond Armstrong (The Mayor of Weston-super-Mare and Chairman of the Town Council), Clive Webb (Leader of the Council), Roger Bailey, Mark Canniford, James Clayton, Robert Cleland, Sarah Codling, John Crockford-Hawley, James Davis, Peter Fox, Catherine Gibbons, Jos Holder, Jan Holloway, Michal Kus, Michael Lyall, Frederick Parsons, Robert Payne, Alan Peak, Ian Porter, Len Purnell, Anita Spencer Johns, Roz Willis

IN ATTENDANCE: Joan Dunne (Mayoress), Malcolm Nicholson (Town Clerk), Tania Middlemiss (Assistant Town Clerk), Tricia Brabham (Committee Officer), Jennifer Lawley (Secretary to the Town Clerk), Chris Millard (Civic Officer), Sally Heath (Blakehay Theatre Manager), Rob Heath (Theatre Technician), Kevin Lilwall (Senior Youth Work Officer Lead), Simon Parry (Photographer), Sayed Ahmed (Borough Shield recipient), Alan Richardson (Mayor's Award recipient), Connie Neale (Mayor's Award recipient, and 60 Parishioners.

The Mayor thanked and welcomed everyone to the Annual Town Meeting, and congratulated the Queen on her 90th birthday which fell on the same day as the Annual Town Meeting.

The Annual Report of Weston-super-Mare Town Council had been circulated. On arrival, electors had received a Public Consultation form of which the Town Council would be very grateful if they could complete and leave with a member of staff.

1.	<p>Apologies for Absence</p> <p>Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Peter Crew, Steven Kane, Richard Tucker, David Hitchins, Richard Nightingale, Lisa Pilgrim and Martin Williams.</p>
2.	<p>Presentations</p> <p>Borough Shield Recipients</p> <p>The Borough shield was awarded annually to the person or organisation who had given the greatest assistance to local charities.</p> <p>Sayd Ahmed had been supporting local organisations, good causes and charities over many years. Every Boxing Day since 2003 he had given the entire takings from Pappadoms Indian Takeaway to Charity including: The Children's Hospice, Super kids, William Knowles Centre, Vision North Somerset, Westhaven School, RNLI (Weston), and Brainwave as well as the Mayor's chosen charities: Sunshine Hospital Radio and Winter Warmth. He was an active member of the Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) Forum, the Multicultural Friendship Association and the Weston Association of Malayalees. Mr Ahmed provided financial help, donated food for events or gave Christmas presents to local schools, junior football teams and local sports clubs.</p>

	<p>Mr Ahmed had also sponsored the Mayor's Ball for the past 3 years and made regular monthly payments to the Weston YMCA to help the young people of our town. He had helped with the development of the Weston Islamic Education Centre and built a school in his home village in Bangladesh.</p> <p>The Mayor invited Mr Ahmed to receive his award.</p> <p>Town Mayor's Awards</p> <p>The Mayor's Award is given to people who make an outstanding contribution to the local community and add significantly to the quality of life of those around them. The Mayor's Award ceremony formally acknowledges the positive difference made by those who live or work in the town and was in recognition of their inspirational and dedicated work to the local community. The recipients are presented with a Weston-super-Mare Award and their names would be recorded on the Mayor's Roll of Honour at Grove House.</p> <p>The Mayor informed that his first award was to Alan Richardson who had been a volunteer at Crossroads Carers, now the Phoenix Trust, for many years and sat on the strategic level Board. He also promoted the work of the Trust and the support that was available for carers. He was a 'Dementia Champion'. In recognition of his work, Alan Richardson was one of 20 people who were invited to meet the Prime Minister at Downing Street. He also ran Dementia Friends sessions, an initiative organised by the Alzheimer's Society.</p> <p>The Town Mayor invited Mr Richardson to receive his award.</p> <p>The Mayor's second Mayor's Award was to Connie Neale who had been involved with the BME Forum since it was created 8 years ago and was the organisation's chair person. The BME Forum is an umbrella network for 16 different organisations who are affiliated to the network which offers management support to these smaller groups. The group had people who spoke 70 different languages, and the centre received over 2000 visits a year. The BME office was the hub of the community and many people also visited her at home if they had problems. Connie Neale was a wonderful ambassador for ethnic minorities and an example of what could be done to help with community cohesion if you were committed to making a difference.</p> <p>The Town Mayor invited Ms Neale to receive her award.</p>
<p>3.</p>	<p>Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on 16th April 2015</p> <p>Page 2, paragraph 9 stated "The Town Mayor invited Mark to receive his award. This should read George not Mark.</p> <p>PROPOSED BY: Councillor Clive Webb SECONDED BY: Councillor Roger Bailey</p> <p>RESOLVED: That with the above amendment the minutes be agreed and signed by the Chairman as a true record.</p>

<p>4.</p>	<p>Opening Remarks by the Leader of the Council and report from the Chairman of the Policy and Finance Committee 2015/16</p> <p>The Mayor introduced the Leader and Chairman of the Policy and Finance Committee, Councillor Clive Webb.</p> <p>The Leader reported that it had been a pleasure to lead the Town Council and thanked his fellow councillors, officers and staff at the Town Council for making the year a success.</p> <p>The Council had been progressing the project for Weston Museum, supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) grant of £1096,000. This year they had also secured a further grant of £50,000 from the Coastal Communities Fund, together with smaller but valuable grants, support from the general public through the buy a block scheme and the reserves approved by the Policy and Finance Committee. Contracts for the main build were out to tender and aiming to complete the refurbishment of the town's Museum in 2017.</p> <p>The investment in Love Weston and tourism continues with the opening of a seasonal Visitor Information Centre and improved Water Park facilities due in May.</p> <p>The council continues to work with partners in the YMCA to deliver vital Youth Services to the town.</p> <p>The finances have been well managed during this time and came in on budget.</p> <p>The Mayor thanked the Leader of the Council for his report.</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p>Report of the Chairman of the Tourism and Leisure Committee 2015/16</p> <p>The Mayor introduced the Vice-Chairman of the Tourism and Leisure Committee, Councillor Jos Holder.</p> <p>The Vice-Chairman, on behalf of the Chairman, reported that the Love Weston brand continues to improve. The Love Weston website was one of the top destination websites, and the Town Council was continuing to improve it.</p> <p>Love Weston advertising featured in airports, railway stations, shopping centres across the country. A destination guide had been distributed to Tourist Information Centres across the country and in resort pocket guide had been developed with North Somerset Council. The Tourism Information Centre located in the former Tropicana would be managed by the Town Council.</p> <p>The filtration system at the Water Park had been upgraded and a new kiosk and changing facilities were being installed.</p> <p>The Mayor thanked the Vice-Chairman of the Tourism and Leisure Committee for her report.</p>
<p>6.</p>	<p>Report from the Chairman of the Community Services Committee 2015/16</p> <p>The Mayor introduced the Chairman of the Community Services Committee, Councillor</p>

	<p>Roger Bailey.</p> <p>The Chairman reported that the Community Services Committee oversees youth services, Milton Road Cemetery, allotments, the Blakehay Theatre, Weston-in-Bloom, the Museum, community events and grants to local organisations.</p> <p>The Blakehay was a community event-space subsidised by the Town Council with the aim of reducing the subsidy year on year whilst at the same time recognising that the theatre served a valuable purpose as an event-space to the community. Shows held included the RAFA band concert, an evening with Anita Harris, Weston’s Got Talent Grand Finale, and Songs from the Shows. Weston College was also a big user of these facilities.</p> <p>Access to the Hutton Moor allotments had been beset with badgers undermining the only motorised access to the site. A licensed badger operative had been commissioned to enact controls to permanently exclude the badgers so that damage caused to the roadway could be assessed. At the Old Mill Way allotments, the help of Allotment Club volunteers meant the original planned 24 allotments had been increased to 45. There was a waiting list of 52 names – 40 individuals – for allotments and average waiting time was 18 months.</p> <p>Community events planned for 2016 included the YMCA Summer Starter event in Grove Park on the 23rd July, Weston Flower show on the 13th August, Picnic in the Park on the 12th June to commemorate the Queen’s 90th birthday and Weston’s Got Talent with the finale in the Blakehay Theatre.</p> <p>The Mayor thanked the Chairman of the Community Services Committee for his report.</p>
<p>7.</p>	<p>Report from the Youth Council 2015/16</p> <p>The Mayor introduced Kevin Lilwall, Senior Youth Work Lead for the YMCA.</p> <p>The Senior Youth Work Lead for the YMCA reported that the YMCA had been supporting youth services for ten years in the town. The Youth Café provided a safe, fun space for young people and had supported projects including the Home School Network, Youth Twinning Exchange, Weston’s Got Talent and the Macmillan Coffee morning.</p> <p>The Youth Council was continually looking to recruit new members and had been in touch with local schools to facilitate this. The Youth Council had worked to fundraise to support Crossroads Young Carers.</p> <p>The Town Mayor thanked the Senior Youth Work Lead for the YMCA for his report.</p>
<p>8.</p>	<p>Matters raised by members of the public</p> <p>The Town Mayor then invited questions from members of the public.</p> <p>Councillor Sarah Codling thanked the Mayor for the last year and the staff and officers at the Town Council for their support.</p> <p>The Town Mayor asked if anyone had any further questions to put to the panel. There were none.</p>

	<p>The Mayor invited recipients of Weston-super-Mare Town Council grants to the stage to receive a presentation cheque totalling £16,200.</p>
	<p>There being no further business, the Mayor, Councillor Raymond Armstrong, closed the meeting at 7.38pm.</p> <p>Signed: Dated: The Mayor of Weston-super-Mare</p>