

**WESTON-SUPER-MARE TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
HELD ON 20TH MARCH 2017
AT THE TOWN HALL**

Meeting Commenced: 6.30 pm

Meeting Concluded: 6.55 pm

PRESENT: Councillors Alan Peak (Town Mayor), Clive Webb (Leader of the Town Council), Raymond Armstrong, Roger Bailey, Mark Canniford, James Clayton, Robert Cleland, Peter Crew, Sarah Codling, Clive Darke, James Davis, Peter Fox, Catherine Gibbons, David Hitchins, Jocelyn Holder, Jan Holloway, Michal Kus, Michael Lyall, Derek Mead, Richard Nightingale, Robert Payne, Len Purnell, Anita Spencer-Johns, Richard Tucker and Martin Williams.

IN ATTENDANCE: Malcolm Nicholson (Town Clerk), Samantha Bishop (Committee Officer), Chris Millard (Mayors Civic Officer), Tricia Brabham (Communications Officer), Jackie Peak (Town Mayoress) Reverend Julie Birkett (Town Mayor's Chaplain), Brianna Millett (Weston & Somerset Mercury), Becky Cordrum (Heart of Weston), Ann Bunn (Heart of Weston), John Bockshaw (Heart of Weston) and Robert Smith (Society of Local Council Clerks) and 7 members of the public.

The Mayor thanked and welcomed everyone to the Annual Town Meeting.

The 17th Annual Report of Weston-super-Mare Town Council had been circulated.

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| 1. | <p>Apologies for Absence</p> <p>Apologies for absence were received from Councillors John Crockford-Hawley, Steven Kane, Richard Nightingale, Lisa Pilgrim, Ian Porter and Roz Willis.</p> |
| 2. | <p>Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on 16th April 2016</p> <p>PROPOSED BY: Councillor Roger Bailey SECONDED BY: Councillor Sarah Codling</p> <p>RESOLVED: That with the above amendment the minutes be agreed and signed by the Chairman as a true record.</p> <p><i>Councillor Cleland joined the meeting at 6.32 pm.</i></p> |
| 3. | <p>Presentation of the 2016 Annual Report</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 embarked on various large and exciting projects this year, the largest the being the refurbishment of the Museum which was supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) grant of £1.5 million and was due to reopen at the end of the summer.</p> |

The Council had also provided a VIC (Visitor Information Centre) situated within the Tropicana which had been very successful and would be resuming service for its first a full seasonal year. Advertising had been forthcoming and it was hoped for a great season.

Finally the Council had invested in improvements to the Blakehay Theatre in the hope that it would break even within the next 5years. Even with all these projects the Council had managed to achieve standstill in Council Tax for the fourth coming year. .

The Mayor introduced the Chairman of the Tourism & Leisure Committee, Councillor Peter Crew.

The Chairman highlighted that the Water park had been successfully operated between the Town Council and North Somerset and that a new contractor had been awarded the tender for the kiosk. Also improvements had been made to the toilet block to include changing rooms.

Implementation of a new Skatepark had commenced in February and it was anticipated that work would be completed by the end of May. Other activities have included the procurement of works to deliver the first year element of the 5year play area improvement programme of which the first contract had been released and awarded (March). The other contracts would be released in line with the Councils procurement regulations.

Councillor Jan Holloway joined the meeting at 6.36 pm

The Council's Love Weston Website was going from strength to strength and had signed up over 60 members. The current SLA agreement would cease on the 31st March had would be run in house by the Council's Visitor Information Team. The Explore magazine had been produced and an in resort guide including a map would be produced and distributed. The Council were hoping for another successful year.

The Mayor introduced the Chairman of the Community Services Committee, Councillor Roger Bailey.

The Chairman informed that the Blakehay Theatre had taken an income of £93,000 and was considered by the Council as a value for money community facility. The Council along with many Westonians anticipated the reopening of the Museum and considered it as a community asset to the town. The volunteers were working hard to include outreach work into care homes. The Cemetery had taken an income of £55,000 and following investigations another two areas within the cemetery will be utilised for future burials together with a number of scattered burial plots. The Council had achieved the humane removal of the badgers that were undermining the access track to Hutton Moor Allotments and had established a new SLA with the Allotment Club. Community Events had included the Flower Show which would be repeated again this year with the inclusion of a Literary Festival. The Council has continued its commitment to Youth Service through partnership with the YMCA which works extremely well. Weston In Bloom was hoped to continue its success as was selected to enter the 'Champion of Champions' category after their National Entry in 2015 when they claimed Silver Gilt and Gold in the regional category, for a 4th year.

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| <p>4.</p> | <p>Matters raised by members of the public</p> <p>The Town Mayor then invited questions from members of the public.</p> <p>Cara Macmahon addressed the meeting and explained that she had enjoyed previous Annual Town Meetings held at the Blakehay where she was able to view the grant recipient's displays and asked why the format had changed. The Leader informed that a working party had discussed the meeting and felt that to hold it before a Town Council meeting was a better format and used fewer resources. A member added that in previous years there had been very poor attendance by parishioners and therefore few if not no questions asked.</p> <p>Mr Tilly then addressed the meeting with his concerns regarding the increase in antisocial behaviour in the town and particularly with the town library situated with the Town Hall. A member informed Mr Tilly that this was within the remit of North Somerset Council and assured him that they were aware of the problems which was being targeted by the Public Space Protection Orders which was on the agenda to be discussed at the subsequent Town Council Meeting.</p> <p>Mr Tilly added that the behaviour extended to fly tipping which was a serious problem where he lived and wanted to know why there is no enforcement for this. The member further informed that there was a North Somerset Council Working Party that was reviewing these types of issues and advised that both Mr Tilly that both his complaints would be forwarded onto Dee Mourn at North Somerset Council.</p> <p>A member who was aware of Mr Tilly's environmental concerns concurred that enforcement to target the offenders needed to be seriously looked into and hoped that the Town Council would urge North Somerset to do so.</p> <p>Alan Rice addressed the meeting by asking which parks and play areas were within the Town Councils remit of which the Town Clerk informed that both Ellenborough Park and Millennium Green were along with various flower beds and many play areas. The other remaining parks were under the jurisdiction of North Somerset Council. Alan Rice then enquired whether Ellenborough Park could be used for community use to which the Town Clerk replied that it could.</p> <p>The Leader encouraged Alan Rice to make a formal request to the Council should he wish you utilise Ellenborough Park.</p> <p>A member requested clarification on the difference between Planning and Strategic Planning with the Council budgets, to which the Town Clerk informed that Planning was the cost of running the Planning Committee and Strategic Planning was a budget to fund Strategic Projects such as the Museum.</p> <p>The Town Mayor thanked everyone for attending the meeting and welcomed them to stay for the Town Council Meeting which would follow.</p> |
| | <p>There being no further business, the Mayor, Councillor Alan Peak, closed the meeting at 6.55 pm.</p> |

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| | Signed: Dated: The Mayor of Weston-super-Mare |
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