

**WESTON-SUPER-MARE TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT
THE TOWN HALL ON
MONDAY 26TH NOVEMBER 2018**

Meeting Commenced: 7.00 pm

Meeting Concluded: 8.26 pm

PRESENT: Councillors Michael Lyall (Town Mayor), Clive Webb (Leader of the Town Council), Mark Aplin, Raymond Armstrong, Roger Bailey, Mark Canniford, James Clayton, Robert Cleland, Sarah Codling, Peter Crew, John Crockford-Hawley, James Davis, Peter Fox, Catherine Gibbons, David Hitchins, Jocelyn Holder, Denise Hunt, Michal Kus, Richard Nightingale, Robert Payne, Alan Peak, Lisa Pilgrim, Ian Porter, Richard Tucker, Martin Williams and Roz Willis.

IN ATTENDANCE: Malcolm Nicholson (Town Clerk), Sarah Pearse (Deputy Town Clerk), Samantha Bishop (Committee Officer), Zoe Scott (Community and Grounds Administrator), Molly Maher (Development Officer), Becky Walsh (Communications Officer/Administrator), Julie Smith (Administrative Officer), Steve Matthews (S.J Surveyors), Reverend Peter Ashman (Town Mayors Chaplain), and Gareth Newman (Weston & Somerset Mercury).

The Town Mayor invited his Chaplain to say prayers.

The Town Mayor invited Mrs Pointer to address the meeting. Mrs Pointer addressed the council with regards to charitable groups fundraising for Weston General Hospital. Her group had raised £4,500 towards the replacement of the lobby floor but had not, despite many attempts to contact the hospital managed to utilise the funds. There had also been no support from the Weston Mercury with advertising of events and many councillors had been written to, asking for their support to which only one replied. Mrs Pointer would like the Town Council to support charitable groups in their campaign to keep the Weston General Hospital open.

The Town Mayor thanked Mrs Pointer for her address and advised that it would be discussed by the relevant committee.

The Town Mayor welcomed newly appointed Councillor Mark Aplin of North Worle ward to his first Town Council meeting.

222	<p>To receive Apologies for Absence</p> <p>Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Jan Holloway, Steven Kane and Len Purnell.</p> <p>The Town Mayor reminded members that the council chamber was booked until 9pm, and to be mindful of this when entering into debate.</p>
223	<p>Declarations of Interest</p> <p>There were no declarations of interest received.</p>
224	<p>To approve the accuracy of the Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on the 25th September 2018</p> <p>The minutes of the meeting had been previously circulated with the agenda.</p> <p>PROPOSED BY: Councillor Clive Webb SECONDED BY: Councillor Michal Kus</p>

	RESOLVED: That the minutes be approved.
225	<p>To receive announcements and communications from the Town Mayor</p> <p>The Town Mayor reported that he and the Mayoress had attended 40 engagements; the Deputy Mayor had attended 4 on his behalf and the Leader 1; which was a total of 121 to date.</p> <p>Significant events to report included the Remembrance Service which was conducted exceptionally. The Deputy Mayor had attended the Worle service and reported that it was very attended.</p> <p>Skidmores in World War 1 evening and exhibition at the Museum.</p> <p>Up coming events included: Christmas Lights switch on 29th November Councillors and Staff Christmas Get Together on the 13th December of which RSVP's need to be received by 6th December. Mayors Christmas Carol Service on the 16th December of which RSVP's need to be received by 7th December.</p>
226	<p>To receive the Notes of the Youth Council Meetings</p> <p>The Town Clerk advised that despite chasing, no meeting notes had been received.</p> <p>Councillor Sarah Codling reported as Youth Champion that extra efforts were being made to make sure meeting dates were being communicated to Councillors and meeting notes were received.</p>
227	<p>Public Toilets Motion to Council</p> <p>The response from Committee, report of the Town Clerk and Notes of the Central Ward Working Party Meeting held on 29th October 2018 had been previously circulated with the agenda.</p> <p>Councillor Peter Fox reiterated that in accordance with Standing Order 11 the motion was referred to the Expenditure and Governance Working Party, which was reviewing all aspects of public toilets provision. A minute extract from the Expenditure and Governance Working Party meeting of 12th November was appended to the agenda.</p> <p>Unfortunately the Crime Prevention officer was unable to attend the meeting, however the Avon and Somerset Police had also been invited to a special meeting of the Central Ward Working Party. This meeting was attended by the Avon and Somerset Police and Crime Commissioner Sue Mountstevens, Chief Inspector Leanne Pook and Sergeant Lee Kerslake. The subjects of toilets and drug use were discussed at the meeting.</p> <p>The Town Mayor advised that the matter of public toilets had been referred to the Policy and Finance Committee for consideration.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the item be noted.</p>
228	<p>Council Membership and Committee Allocations</p> <p>The report of the Town Clerk had been previously circulated with the agenda.</p>

	<p>The report indicated the new political balance as a result of the election of Councillor Marc Aplin, Conservative Councillor for North Worle Ward. Council's instruction was requested on any changes to committee or working party appointments.</p> <p>RESOLVED:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That Councillor Marc Aplin replace Councillor Peter Fox on the Planning Committee. 2. That Councillor David Hitchins replace Councillor Richard Nightingale on the Planning Committee. 3. That Councillor Marc Aplin replace Councillor Roz Willis on the Youth Council.
229	<p>Local Plan 2036 Issues and Options consultation</p> <p>The report of the Town Clerk had been previously circulated with the agenda.</p> <p>North Somerset Council were seeking parish and town councils' views on the Issues and Options Document. The consultation would run until 10th December 2018. The report outlined the specific issues and policies being: Weston–super-Mare issues, Urban living, town centre, A370 corridor and included some suggestions to assist discussion of a consultation response.</p> <p>Debate commenced and members made various comments such as emphasising the importance of avoiding high density housing and subdivision of properties in the town centre; the need for good quality and design of housing; the necessity of identifying health and education infrastructure to support development; the need to improve transport links generally and and replace the dual train lines at Weston station; the importance of job provision and attracting businesses to Weston; and lastly making sure that the housing was shared fairly with the other towns and villages in North Somerset.</p> <p>PROPOSED BY: Councillor Clive Webb SECONDED BY: Councillor Ian Porter</p> <p>A vote was taken and carried.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the Town Clerk responds to the consultation as outlined within the report and to include the comments made by members.</p>
230	<p>Further Consultation on the West of England Joint Spatial Plan</p> <p>The report of the Town Clerk had been previously circulated with the agenda. A letter from the West of England Councils was appended to the report.</p> <p>The Town Council had responded in 2016 to the consultation by the four West of England Councils on the Joint Spatial Plan (JSP) for development in the area over the next 20 years up to 2036.</p> <p>The Joint Spatial Plan was strategic, rather than specific, and will set out the number of houses needed and the broad locations for housing, employment, transport and other infrastructure for the next 20 years.</p> <p>The consultation would run from 12th November 2018 until 7th January 2019.</p> <p>PROPOSED BY: Councillor Clive Webb SECONDED BY: Councillor Peter Fox</p>

	<p>A vote was then taken and carried.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the council notes the report and encourages members to respond individually.</p>
231	<p>Play Areas – Planned Maintenance Programme</p> <p>The report of the Deputy Town Clerk had been previously circulated with the agenda.</p> <p>The Deputy Town Clerk accompanied by the Community and Grounds Administrator and the Town Council’s Surveyor were in attendance to present the programme via PowerPoint Presentation.</p> <p>Members would be aware of the work undertaken by officers to produce a Play Area Essential Maintenance, Repair & Replacement Programme (EMRRP) of works for all 21 Parks and Play areas the council was responsible for (as agreed via the E&G WP and T&L committee).</p> <p>The report had been produced working with SJ Surveyors and the council’s independent RPII inspector to ensure it represented unbiased and factual information for members to consider as well as a consistent style to the asset management programme currently working at the council.</p> <p>The purpose of the exercise was to fundamentally identify current condition in order to understand when play equipment was likely to need replacement based on its life expectancy. In addition it would provide understanding of the requirements of each play area to ensure they were kept in good order and to identify what works would be needed and when costs were going to need to be incurred. This approach would ensure the council was compliant with all necessary health & safety and play equipment standards whilst providing the community with a good standard of play facilities.</p> <p>The plan was envisaged to supersede the previous capital works plan approved by the Tourism and Leisure Committee prior to last year’s budget. Works, as detailed in the plan would be done via the council’s grounds team and via procurement following the council’s financial regulations and procurement guides where necessary as detailed on page 30 of the report.</p> <p>The plan would be reviewed on an annual basis each year in order to check requirements and provide detail for the next financial year. As with the asset programme a set amount should be put in place to be worked within. For this coming 5 years it was felt that members should consider the value of £260,656 annually.</p> <p>Members were requested to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Approve the adoption of a EMRRP programme for the council’s 21 Parks and Play areas. 2. Adopt the 5 year scheduled plan for the year commencing 1st April 2019. 3. Consider and set the annual budget requirement based on the plan for 2019 -2024 of £260,656 4. Agree that future annual reviews based on this system plan will be undertaken and received by the Tourism and Leisure committee as per its terms of reference for the management of play areas. <p>The Chairman of the Tourism and Leisure Committee proposed to delegate the programme to the Tourism and Leisure Committee for consideration before submission back to the Town Council.</p>

	<p>Discussion ensued and it was:</p> <p>PROPOSED BY: Councillor Peter Crew SECONDED BY: Councillor James Davis</p> <p>A vote was taken and carried.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the matter be delegated to the Tourism and Leisure Committee for consideration before submission back to the Town Council.</p>
232	<p>Weston Railway Station Improvement Grant</p> <p>The report of the Development Officer had been previously circulated with the agenda.</p> <p>Following previous conversations with Great Western Railway (GWR), their Customer and Communities Improvement Fund was brought to the council's attention. There was an opportunity for the Town Council to apply for a grant which would allow improvements to be made at Weston-super-Mare Train Station.</p> <p>Match funding was agreed on by three separate parties:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. North Somerset Council agreed to match fund £11,000 using the Heritage Action Zone budget for the signage implementation. 2. Weston-super-Mare Town Council's Weston in Bloom agreed to match fund £500 for the new planters. 3. Weston-super-Mare Town Council were also able to match fund £3,000 for the signage implementation with residual funds from the Heritage Lottery Fund allocated for improved signage for Weston Museum. <p>The total amount applied for from the GWR Customer and Communities Improvement Fund was £57,130. The Council were currently awaiting acknowledgement and feedback from GWR.</p> <p>The Development Officer presented her report and invited any questions.</p> <p>In response to comments regarding the new gate entrance for platform 2, the Town Clerk informed that works were being currently carried out and that the council was waiting to hear when it would be open.</p> <p>RESOLVED: To note the report on the application for a grant from GWR.</p>
233	<p>North Somerset Car Parking Review</p> <p>A letter received from the Leader of North Somerset Council asking for the Council to comment on the parking review had been previously circulated with the agenda.</p> <p>Councillor Richard Nightingale had produced a document titled 'Resident and Business Feedback to Weston-super-Mare Town Council on North Somerset Council Parking Review' and circulated this to members at the meeting. He encouraged the Town Council to include the document as part of their comments on the Car Parking Review.</p> <p>Councillor John Crockford-Hawley on behalf of the Liberal Democrat group had also</p>

	<p>produced written comments which he would supply to the Town Clerk for inclusion within the Town Council’s comments for the Car Parking Review. Further costings for introducing a Residents Parking Scheme would follow.</p> <p>Debate ensued and it was therefore:</p> <p>PROPOSED BY: Councillor John Crockford-Hawley SECONDED BY: Councillor Peter Crew</p> <p>A vote was taken and carried.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That written comments received from town councillors be included to form the Town Council’s official comments on the North Somerset Car Parking Review.</p>
<p>234</p>	<p>Minehead Rail Link</p> <p>The report of the Town Clerk had been previously circulated with the agenda.</p> <p>The railway line to Minehead had closed to mainline passenger services in 1971, with the current heritage services being slowly introduced from 1976 onwards. Minehead Rail Link Group had been campaigning for the introduction of a new community rail link between Taunton and Minehead for around five years.</p> <p>The Minehead Rail Link Group had now asked for the support of Weston-super-Mare Town Council.</p> <p>Discussions were under way between Somerset County Council, Network Rail and the relevant train operators over the prospect of a renewed rail link between Bishops Lydeard and Taunton.</p> <p>There was already an hourly train service from Weston to Taunton and, if a rail link to Bishops Lydeard and Minehead were possible, this would bring the prospect of visitors to Weston who have come by public transport enjoying a day out to Watchet or Minehead. The West Somerset Railway was a partner of Visit Weston and so a link would be beneficial to promotion of Weston as a visitor destination.</p> <p>Members were delighted to support the Minehead Rail Link Group and therefore</p> <p>PROPOSED BY: Councillor Catherine Gibbons SECONDED BY: Councillor Alan peak</p> <p>A vote was taken and carried.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the Town Council notes the efforts of Minehead Rail Link Group to re-start through train services between Minehead and Taunton, and the group’s support for a trial service between Taunton and Bishops Lydeard starting in June 2019. As such services were likely to continue through to Weston-super-Mare and beyond, they would provide enhanced public transport for the whole coastal region. They also had the support of Town and Borough Councils along the route. Weston-super-Mare Town Council extends its good wishes to the Minehead Rail Link Group and will support their efforts in any way it can.</p>

235	<p>Motion to Council under Standing Order 11 by Councillor Gibbons as follows:</p> <p>In recent weeks the Campaign For the Protection of Rural England (CPRE) has contacted rural parish councils in the area asking them to support their campaign against Fracking being allowed under permitted development, robbing local people and communities of having any control over, or say in, this contentious process.</p> <p>To date WTC has not been approached therefore I move that WTC be pro-active and write to the CPRE with a view to signing up to the campaign.</p> <p>WTC has proven its “green” credentials having unanimously supported the Plastic Free motion last year...and I now I ask you to support this motion and help send a powerful message to NSC that We in Weston value our town and the surrounding environment and are committed to protecting it.’</p> <p>The Town Mayor invited Councillor Catherine Gibbons to present her motion to the council. She was pleased to hear that North Somerset Council would be supporting the campaign and was asked to bring this motion to the Town Council on behalf of residents and therefore</p> <p>PROPOSED BY: Councillor Catherine Gibbons SECONDED BY: Councillor Alan Peak</p> <p>A member was in full support of the motion and suggested that the wording be changed to reflect the motion passed by North Somerset Council by Councillor Tom Leimdorfer to which the Town Clerk had received.</p> <p>This advice was accepted by the mover and seconder and was combined with the original proposition to become the substantive motion.</p> <p>A vote was then taken and carried.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That this Council is in agreement with the conclusions of the Parliamentary Select Committee on Communities and Local Government (July 2018) that ‘Shale gas development of any type should not be classed as a permitted development. Given the contentious nature of fracking, local communities should be able to have their say in whether this type of development takes place, particularly as concerns about the construction, locations and cumulative impact of drill pads are yet to be assuaged by Government’.</p> <p>The Council is also in agreement with Local Government Association statement of May 2018 <i>“We oppose any proposal for shale exploration to be allowed to bypass the locally democratic planning system through permitted development or national planning inspectors. We are clear that it should be up to local communities to decide whether or not to host fracking operations in their areas”</i></p> <p>This Council affirms that local councils should have a meaningful say in whether projects go ahead, where these could result in significant local impacts such as increased traffic, fields and open spaces being converted to drilling sites. Local councils should retain the right to represent their communities’ needs and wishes.</p> <p>We ask our Town Clerk to convey these views to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government and help send a powerful message to NSC that We in Weston value our town and the surrounding environment and are committed to protecting it and finally, write to the CPRE with a view to signing up to the campaign.</p>
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There being no further business, the Town Mayor closed the meeting at 8.26 p.m.

Signed:
Town Mayor

Dated: