

**WESTON-SUPER-MARE TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT
THE TOWN HALL ON
MONDAY 18TH MARCH 2019**

Meeting Commenced: 7.00 pm

Meeting Concluded: 7.57 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, Jan Holloway, Denise Hunt, Michal Kus, Richard Nightingale, Robert Payne, Alan Peak, Lisa Pilgrim, Anita Spencer-Johns, Richard Tucker, Martin Williams and Roz Willis.

IN ATTENDANCE: Malcolm Nicholson (Town Clerk), Tania Middlemiss (Assistant Town Clerk), Samantha Bishop (Committee Officer), Chris Millard (Mayors Civic Officer), Becky Walsh (Communications Officer/Administrator), Julie Smith (Administration Officer) Reverend Peter Ashman (Town Mayors Chaplain), Damien Erangey (Youth Council), members of the Youth Council and Henry Woodsford (Weston & Somerset Mercury).

The Town Mayor invited his Chaplain, to say prayers.

362	<p>To receive Apologies for Absence</p> <p>Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Ray Armstrong, Len Purnell, Ian Porter and Steven Kane.</p>
363	<p>Declarations of Interest</p> <p>There were no declarations of interest received.</p>
364	<p>To approve the accuracy of the Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on the 21st January 2019</p> <p>The minutes of the meeting had been previously circulated with the agenda.</p> <p>It was noted that the spelling of 'Dr. Parag Singhal' on page 1 of the minutes needed to be amended.</p> <p>PROPOSED BY: Councillor Clive Webb SECONDED BY: Councillor Michal Kus</p> <p>A vote was taken and carried.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That with the above amendment the minutes be approved.</p>
365	<p>To receive announcements and communications from the Town Mayor</p> <p>The Town Mayor reported that he and the Mayoress had attended 21 engagements; the Deputy Mayor had attended 2 on his behalf and the Leader 0; which was a total of 173 to date.</p>

	<p>The Town Mayor took the opportunity to thank his Deputy Mayor for supporting him throughout his mayoral year and wished him well and every success.</p>
366	<p>Tourism Co-operation - Presentation by John Turner, CEO, Visit Somerset</p> <p>The report of the Tourism Manager had been previously circulated with the agenda.</p> <p>The Town Clerk informed that he had received communication that afternoon that John Turner was unable to attend the meeting.</p> <p>PROPOSED BY: Councillor Clive Webb SECONDED BY: Councillor Michal Kus</p> <p>A vote was taken and carried.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the report of the Tourism Manager be deferred until John Turner was able to attend a future Town Council meeting.</p>
367	<p>Designation of Town Mayor and Deputy Town Mayor for the year 2019/2020</p> <p>PROPOSED BY: Councillor James Davis SECONDED BY: Councillor Roger Bailey</p> <p>A vote was taken and carried.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That Councillor Martin Williams be designated Town Mayor for the year 2019/2020</p> <p>Councillor Roger Bailey said he was delighted to second the designation and had every confidence that Councillor Martin Williams would be a brilliant Mayor.</p> <p>PROPOSED BY: Councillor Robert Payne SECONDED BY: Councillor Clive Webb</p> <p>A vote was taken and carried.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That Councillor Mark Canniford be designated Deputy Town Mayor for the year 2019/2020.</p>
368	<p>To approve the draft Calendar of Meetings for June 2019 to May 2020</p> <p>The draft Calendar of Meetings had been previously circulated with the agenda.</p> <p>A member highlighted a clash of meeting dates on 16th September.</p> <p>The Town Clerk apologised for not spotting this clash and suggested that the date of the Community Services Committee could be brought forward to the 9th September.</p> <p>PROPOSED BY: Councillor Michal Kus SECONDED BY: Councillor Clive Webb</p> <p>A vote was taken and carried.</p>

	<p>RESOLVED: That with the above amendment, the draft Calendar of Meetings for June 2019 to May 2020 be approved.</p>
<p>369</p>	<p>To receive the Notes of the Youth Council Meeting 20th November 2018 & 18th December 2018</p> <p>The notes had been previously circulated with the agenda.</p> <p>Councillor Roz Willis informed that her apologies had been recorded which was not necessary as she was no longer a member.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the Notes of the Youth Council Meetings for 20th November 2018 & 18th December 2018 be noted.</p>
<p>370</p>	<p>Work of the Youth Council</p> <p>The report of Councillor Sarah Codling, Youth Champion had been previously circulated with the agenda.</p> <p>The Town Mayor invited Councillor Sarah Codling to address the meeting.</p> <p>Councillor Sarah Codling thanked the Mayor for welcoming youth councillors to the meeting as it was an overwhelming situation for some of them. The Mayor invited the Chairperson of the Youth Council to address the meeting.</p> <p>Isabella Kane, introduced herself as Chairperson of the Youth Council and thanked members for their continuing support. A copy of the Youth Council's 2019 Strategy was circulated at the meeting for members' information. Isabella informed that the Youth Council had recruited seven new members and would be working with Councillor Codling to fulfil their strategy. An invitation was extended to all members to attend a future Youth Council meeting.</p> <p>The Town Mayor thanked Isabella for her address and complimented the concept of the Youth Council.</p> <p>A member added that the Youth Council did a great job. It was appreciated that speaking publically was not in everybody's comfort zone and she hoped that Youth Councillors felt that they could aspire to be anything they wanted to be.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the report of Councillor Sarah Codling, Youth Champion, be noted.</p>
<p>371</p>	<p>Weston General Hospital Consultation</p> <p>The letter from Julia Ross of the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and the report from the Town Clerk had been previously circulated with the agenda.</p> <p>The Town Clerk advised that his report gave background information and details of the consultations. Members' instructions were requested on if and how they wished to respond.</p> <p>Councillor Richard Nightingale informed that he had arranged a recent Health summit meeting where the CCG and Consultants' group were to present their proposals for Weston General Hospital. Unfortunately, the CCG had pulled out of</p>

the meeting at short notice which left the Consultants' group to present on their own. Members were provided with a list of questions that arose from that meeting and it was proposed that these questions be appended to the Town Council's response to Julia Ross's letter and that the council formally asks that the CCG respond to the questions on their proposals for Weston General Hospital, in writing within 14 days.

A member who had attended the Health Summit meeting expressed his severe disappointment at the CCG failing to attend the meeting. The Summit had been attended by over 100 people with consultants traveling from as far as the Isle of Wight to attend.

Debate ensued on why the CCG did not attend the meeting and whether it was for political reasons.

The Mayor intervened in the debate and asked what the consultants' group proposals were for keeping the A&E department open overnight. Councillor Richard Nightingale offered to send the slideshow proposal from the consultants' group informing of this.

The Leader of the Labour Group advised that she had attended the Health Summit meeting and had spoken to the MP who had informed that he supported the CCG's model. She therefore, asked members of the opposition whose model they were supporting?

Councillor Roz Willis, a dual hatted member and Chairman of the Health Overview Scrutiny panel (HOSP), informed that the HOSP panel had the statutory duty and not the Town Council over any decision regarding the Hospital. The HOSP panel had already deemed the proposal as a substantial variation of service that was why legally, the CCG had to go out to consultation. The Clinical Senate had requested more information on the pressures impacted on Bristol and Taunton A&E departments and the consultation had to run its legal course to the end (24th May). A meeting was held on 15th March with the Consultants Group where a joint press release from both them and the CCG was agreed. A meeting of clinicians and CCG was scheduled on 21st March to discuss the issues. The consultants would like to pilot their proposal to test it and the question has been raised as to whether legally, this could be done within the consultation period or wait until the consultation end. The result of the consultation would then be put together as a business case by the CCG which would go to the HOSP panel in the autumn who would then determine if it was a substantial variation either positive or negative and take steps if needed to send to the Secretary of State for Health.

In response to the earlier question made by the Leader of the Labour Group, the Leader of the Council confirmed that the Conservative Group supported the model of the consultants' group.

Debate ensued. The Ambulance service had advised of some of the disturbing impacts the closure of Weston's A&E department had on the service. All members should be in support of having a fully functioning A&E department.

A member thanked Councillor Roz Willis for her earlier submission and clarity of the situation. He advised that some members including himself, had not been informed of the time and venue of the Health Summit meeting and therefore were unable to attend. Weston needed a better ambulance service and members

	<p>should remember that the Town Council were a consultee and not a statutory decision making body.</p> <p>Members fully supported the submission of the questions to the CCG and urged that there needed to be some parity and realistic conversations had now.</p> <p>Councillor Roz Willis was asked for some clarity around the timing of the pilot test. In reply, Councillor Willis informed that a pilot test would be undertaken to determine whether or not it would work and that the main piece of work to be done was the shift rotas changing from am to pm. A financial plan was needed but because of election purdah coming soon, meetings would have to be put on hold.</p> <p>A member who was an ex-ambulance driver suggested inviting the Ambulance service to a future meeting to give their perspective on the A&E closure.</p> <p>PROPOSED BY: Councillor Alan Peak SECONDED BY: Councillor Peter Fox</p> <p>A vote was taken and carried.</p> <p>RESOLVED:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the Town Council responds to the letter received from Julia Ross of the CCG, appending the questions from the Health summit meeting and formally asks them to respond to the questions on their proposals for Weston General Hospital, in writing within 14 days. 2. To invite the South West Ambulance Service to a future meeting of the Council.
<p>372</p>	<p>Planning Reforms for Shale Gas Development</p> <p>A letter from Kit Malthouse MP had been previously circulated with the agenda.</p> <p>The Town Clerk advised that the response was for noting.</p> <p>Some members voiced disappointment with the response.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the response from Kit Malthouse MP be noted.</p>
<p>373</p>	<p>Future High Streets Fund</p> <p>The report of the Town Clerk advising of the request from North Somerset Council (NSC) for support for a grant application had been previously circulated with then agenda.</p> <p>Debate ensued. It was hoped that residents did not think the grant was to prevent the closure of High Street shops such as Marks and Spencer. The negativity around the town needed to cease as it would not help the case for the grant. There needed to be more partnership working between councils, voluntary sector and businesses.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the Town Council support the grant application and that the Town Clerk be instructed at write a letter of support accordingly</p>

<p>374</p>	<p>Our Weston</p> <p>A report from the Central Ward Working Party had been previously circulated with the agenda.</p> <p>Councillor Richard Nightingale was invited to present his report and began by thanking his colleagues who had attended meetings of the Central Ward Working Party and for the work and ground that it had covered. He apologised for the late submission of the agenda item and moved approval of the report's recommendations.</p> <p>PROPOSED BY: Councillor Richard Nightingale SECONDED BY: Councillor James Davis</p> <p>A vote was taken and carried.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the Town Council promote and help facilitate the formation of a group of stakeholders, in which the Council and residents would be an active part, to address health and wellbeing issues right across Weston-Super-Mare, called Our Weston.</p> <p>The Town Mayor wished his fellow members good luck in the forthcoming elections and thanked all for their collegueship and support through his 8 year time as a town councillor.</p> <p>Thanks were also given to the Town Mayor's Chaplain Reverend Peter Ashman for his support throughout the Mayoral year.</p> <p>A member returned the Mayor's thanks for carrying out his Mayoral and Councillor duties.</p> <p>Members were advised that 'Clean Weston' posters were now available from Councillor Catherine Gibbons.</p>
	<p>There being no further business, the Town Mayor closed the meeting at 7.57 p.m.</p> <p>Signed: Dated: Town Mayor</p>