

**WESTON-SUPER-MARE TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT
THE TOWN HALL ON
MONDAY 25TH SEPTEMBER 2018**

Meeting Commenced: 7.00 pm

Meeting Concluded: 8.12 pm

PRESENT: Councillors Michael Lyall (Town Mayor), Clive Webb (Leader of the Town Council), Raymond Armstrong, Roger Bailey, Mark Canniford, James Clayton, Robert Cleland, Sarah Codling, 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, Richard Tucker and Roz Willis.

IN ATTENDANCE: Malcolm Nicholson (Town Clerk), Samantha Bishop (Committee Officer), Chris Millard (Mayors Civic Officer), Becky Walsh (Communication Officer/Administrator), Kevin Lilwall (Director of Early Years and Communities, YMCA), Joe Heslop (Homelessness Support and Nightstop Coordinator), Oliver Rosner (Intern from Hildesheim, Germany) and Vicky Angear (Weston & Somerset Mercury).

In the absence of his Chaplain the Town Mayor invited Councillor John Crockford-Hawley to say prayers.

The Town Mayor welcomed Oliver Rosner to the meeting and expressed how delighted the council were to receive him as part of his internship. Oliver thanked the council for the warm welcome.

The Town Mayor invited Mrs Anne Skinner to address the meeting. Anne addressed the council in regards to the missing play equipment at Castle Batch play area. She had collated comments from local residents, parents and young users of the park regarding the general state of the play area and paths covered in glass and needles, as a result of unsavoury and intimidating teenagers using the park. It was a situation which required police intervention and monitored CCTV. Ann urged both the Town and North Somerset Councils with the support of the Police to step in and target the problems at Castle Batch. As a retired nurse and community minded resident, she cared about the futures of the young people and would like to see the park to be of an acceptable standard. Anne had brought with her a petition signed by 739 people that were concerned at the recent removal of children's play equipment at Castle Batch play area. They would like to see a well equipped and maintained play park for local children to enjoy and called upon on the council to replace the equipment as a priority, as they were concerned that the play area was being run down. Castle Batch should not be at the back of the queue when it came to refurbishing and maintaining the play areas.

The Town Mayor thanked Mrs Skinner.

146	To receive Apologies for Absence Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Peter Crew, Anita Spencer-Johns, Len Purnell and Martin Williams.
147	Declarations of Interest There were no declarations of interest received.
148	To approve the accuracy of the Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on the 23rd July 2018 The minutes of the meeting had been previously circulated with the agenda. The Town Clerk provided an update on minute number 86 (Motion to Council under Standing

	<p>Order 11 from Councillor Peter Fox) with regard to the public toilets in Grove Park, He advised that it had been discussed at Expenditure and Governance Working Party but the review was still being further considered and the response to the motion would therefore be reported back to the Town Council at its meeting on 26th November.</p> <p>PROPOSED BY: Councillor Michal Kus SECONDED BY: Councillor Clive Webb</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the minutes be approved.</p>
149	<p>To receive announcements and communications from the Town Mayor</p> <p>The Town Mayor reported that he and the Mayoress had attended 32 engagements, the Deputy Mayor had attended 6 on his behalf and the Leader 1; which was a total of 76 to date.</p> <p>The Town Mayor reminded members to reply to the invitation to the Museum's preview of the Alfred Leete exhibition on the 28th September as tickets were selling out fast.</p> <p>The Town Mayor reported that Grove House had welcomed over 70 people over the Heritage Open Days and thanked all staff involved in preparing and facilitating the event, in particular the Mayors Civic Officer. The silver and cabinet looked fantastic and was a good job well done by all.</p>
150	<p>To receive the Notes of the Youth Council Meetings</p> <p>The Town Mayor advised that there had been no meetings held since 5th June 2018.</p> <p>The Chairperson, Isabelle Caine was in attendance and reported that the Youth Council had found it difficult to meet over the summer holidays. She was aware that Town Councillors were not always informed of meeting dates and so a better system for notifying them was being implemented.</p> <p>The Town Mayor thanked the Chairperson for her report.</p>
151	<p>To consider the Bristol Airport Master Plan Consultation - Stage II</p> <p>The Town Mayor invited Mark Herbert Planning Manager, and Holly Osman, Consultation & Engagement Executive, Bristol Airport to present to the meeting.</p> <p>Mark introduced himself and began by advising on airport growth and the current 10million Master Plan Consultation Bristol Airport was working to. At present, the airport was seeing approximately 8 million passengers through and was expected, based on current projections to reach 10 million by 2021 and 20 million by 2040. The next Master Plan Consultation for 12 million would be submitted in November which was expected, again based on current projections to sustain until 2026. Extension plans were hindered by planning caps and Bristol Airport's main concerns were releasing land from green belt and linking up with rail lines. There were currently 3,000 jobs provided by the airport of which was projected to increase to 15-20,000 as a result of the Master Plan.</p> <p>Mark then introduced Holly to report on the details of the consultations. Holly advised that the first of the two consultation periods had taken place from November 2017- January 2018, specifically looking at development to the north and south of the airport. The consultation events had been held in Weston and generated over 1000 responses. The second consultation had been held from May 2018 - July 2018 and had generated over 970 responses. Feedback was currently being analysed.</p> <p>It was hoped that planning consent would be granted in the spring of 2019. There were many</p>

	<p>factors and it was a very complex application. Unless substantial improvements were made to the A38, any future plans would not be approved. The factor of green belt land release and options were also being pursued.</p> <p>Debate ensued. In response to a question regarding lengthening of the runway, Mark informed that there were no proposals to do this as the runway was sufficient with the airport's model. He confirmed that the Weston and Bristol Flyer service was funded through section 106 monies and that Bristol Airport was very passionate about retaining its bus services.</p> <p>In response to a query about the planning process Mark explained that on balance, it had been decided to work towards a 15 million plan.</p> <p>A member felt it worth noting that Bristol Airport had heavily consulted with North Somerset Council on the expansion plans. Mark reported that consultation was felt to be very important and that they had been working closely with the local community and villagers to appease discontentment.</p> <p>He could find out and provide exact employment figures if required and informed that most of the Airport's employees were either from Weston-super-Mare or South Bristol.</p> <p>The Town Mayor thanked both Mark and Holly for addressing the meeting and they left the meeting at 7.37 pm.</p>
152	<p>Youth Homelessness and Nightstop</p> <p>The Town Mayor invited Joe Heslop, Homelessness Support and Nightstop Coordinator, YMCA to speak to the meeting regarding the project.</p> <p>Joe began by explaining what a prominent problem homelessness was nationally and how it was on many political agendas. Statistics demonstrated a 169% increase since 2010 and between the periods of October 2017 – January 2018, 4,500 rough sleepers were recorded each night.</p> <p>The Nightstop project was provided by the YMCA in Weston to try and help target the youth element of rough sleeping in Weston and offered accommodation for young people aged 16-25 for a period of up to 7 days. The concept was community hosting and offering young people a safe place to stay until they moved on to a more permanent arrangement. The request to address the meeting was intended to raise awareness of the project and to report what was being done to help target the problem. Young people were referred to Nightstop through North Somerset Council and through the Citizens Advice Bureau. An impact report from a young person who had accessed the service was read aloud at the meeting. This explained how the project had enabled them to eat around a table with others rather than alone every night. The project supports people to be able to keep working as this was a vital factor in them being able to move forward. Joe reported that since January 2017, the project had been accessed by 20 young people. 14 of which had moved on to private or supported accommodation, 3 had moved back in with family, 2 had disengaged with the service and 1 had returned to a foster placement.</p> <p>Lastly, if anybody was interesting in becoming a host for the project they would need a spare bedroom and a warm and positive attitude. There was also a need for Nightstop drivers. All DBS and referencing would be undertaken through the Nightstop project.</p> <p>Discussion ensued. Joe clarified the difference between the Nightstop project and the night assessment centre project. He explained that Nightstop was definitely more beneficial for young people unless a young person was at high risk to themselves or others, when they would be best placed at the night assessment centre.</p>

	<p>Members felt it was a great project and that it was a shame it was not publicised more.</p> <p>Joe informed that there were also outreach walks and if anybody was interested they would be very welcome to join.</p> <p>The Town Mayor thanked Joe for addressing the meeting.</p>
153	<p>To nominate a Youth Champion</p> <p>The Town Clerk's report had been previously circulated with the agenda.</p> <p>The Town Clerk informed that he had met with the YMCA to discuss ways to improve joint working. The YMCA was an excellent partner of the Town Council, whose funding enabled the provision of a youth café as well as providing outreach youth services in the Uphill, Bournville and Worle areas.</p> <p>There was a joint wish to open up opportunities to involve young people more closely in the local governance and civic life of the town. In addition there had been some hiccups around communication at member level regarding the youth council. The communication issues were not always necessarily optimised via meetings, and the proposed Champion could support Youth Councillors by participating online in WhatsApp discussions and closed Facebook groups.</p> <p>The YMCA had therefore made a request to the Town Council to appoint a Youth Champion at member level. This would be in addition to the four councillors appointed to the Youth Council and could be one of the four. The Youth Champion would be the first point of contact between the YMCA and the Town Council at member level, would participate in WhatsApp and online used by young people; and could champion youth issues and needs at the Town Council.</p> <p>PROPOSED BY: Councillor Clive Webb SECONDED BY: Councillor Roger Bailey</p> <p>A vote was taken and was carried.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That Sarah Codling be nominated Youth Champion.</p>
154	<p>Weston Hospicecare</p> <p>The Town Mayor invited Hillary Emery to address the meeting.</p> <p>Hillary introduced herself and as a Trustee of Weston Hospicecare of over 7 years and was accompanied by Alison Sopp who was the Head of Fundraising. Hillary began by extending an invitation to the council to come and visit the Hospice premises. She reported that 2019 would be the 30th Birthday of the Hospice. The total annual running costs were £4.2 million, of which only 20% was funded by the NHS. The rest was generated through fundraising and the service heavily relied on its volunteers of which there was a 4:1 ratio with paid members of staff.</p> <p>There was a misconception that people came to the Hospice to die, and while some did the main aim was to get people home where they felt happy and supported by the outreach Hospicecare. There were 8 community nurses and the Hospice had a very good working relationship with Weston Hospital. Hillary shared her personal experience of needing the Hospice in her private life and how she and her family were so supported throughout that time and she didn't know how she would have coped without their support. It was a truly invaluable service and she thanked everybody for listening.</p>

	<p>Handouts for members were made available at the meeting.</p> <p>A member thanked Hillary for her beautifully spoken address to the council and would like to take up the offer of visiting the Hospice.</p> <p>RESOLVED: If members wished to visit they must inform the Town Clerk who would liaise with Weston Hospicecare and arrange dates for members to visit in the near future.</p> <p><i>Hillary and Alison left the meeting at 8.00 pm.</i></p>
155	<p>Council Membership Changes and Committee Allocations</p> <p>The Town Clerk's report had been previously circulated with the agenda.</p> <p>The report indicated that the death of a Town Councillor in late June had left a vacant seat on the Town Council for Worle North Ward. A by-election had been called and scheduled for Thursday 11th October. Since then a resignation had been received on Friday 7th September, with immediate effect.</p> <p>The Town Council's political group balance was therefore currently the following: Conservative 18, Labour 6, Liberal Democrat 4, UKIP 1. A table showing a percentage calculation (to the nearest 2 decimal places) for committees featured within the report.</p> <p>While there was, strictly speaking, no statutory duty applicable to parish councils to do so the majority of town councils and larger parishes allocate committee seats broadly in accordance with the overall balance on their council. At this council there had always been a custom and practice that the Council allocates seats on committees in accordance with political balance based on the same method of calculation as was used by the principal authority. Accordingly, based on the customary method of calculation, the Labour Group would get one extra seat on committees of 12. However the calculation would change further following the by election on 11th October and the Town Clerk would report again to the November Council meeting.</p> <p>This also gave an opportunity for groups who so wished to put forward changes to the individual councillors on committees.</p> <p>PROPOSED BY: Councillor Clive Webb SECONDED BY: Councillor Michal Kus</p> <p>Members requested clarity on whether minute number 85 of the previous meeting still stood filling the vacant places on two committees to which the Town Clerk confirmed that it did and apologised for the error in his report.</p> <p>A vote was taken and accordingly it was carried</p> <p>RESOLVED: To leave any membership changes and committee allocations until after the by-election scheduled for Thursday 11th October.</p>
156	<p>Motion under Standing Order 11 by Councillor Catherine Gibbons</p> <p>The Town Mayor invited Councillor Catherine Gibbons to present her motion to the council.</p> <p>Councillor Catherine Gibbons explained that she had submitted the motion on behalf of her colleague and North Worle ward Councillor, Denise Hunt.</p> <p>It was therefore</p>

	<p>PROPOSED BY: Councillor Catherine Gibbons SECONDED BY: Councillor Denise Hunt</p> <p>'We are concerned at the loss of equipment at the Castle Batch Play area and request that the council makes provision for their replacement and also puts in place an effective planned maintenance programme as soon as possible'</p> <p>Councillor Denise Hunt issued members with a case study on Castle Batch play area dating back to June 2018. She was very disappointed that the matter had dragged long for so long with no resolution. This was very frustrating for local residents and users of the park and they did not feel included in Weston Town Councils priorities. The Labour group would like to see the equipment replaced as a matter of priority and the signed petition mentioned earlier in the meeting had been handed to the Town Clerk.</p> <p>The Town Mayor ruled under Standing Order 11. 5 that the matter stand referred without discussion to the Tourism and Leisure Committee.</p> <p><i>S.O.11.5: If the subject matter of a resolution comes within the province of a committee of the Council, it shall, upon being moved and seconded, stand referred without discussion to such committee or to such other committee as the Council may determine for report, provided that the Chairman, if considering it to be a matter of urgency, may allow it to be dealt with at the meeting at which it was moved.</i></p> <p>The Town Clerk advised that discussion had taken place regarding the need for a planned maintenance programme for play areas. This would be reported to the Tourism and Leisure Committee at its meeting on 8th October 2018 and the motion would then be referred back to the Town Council, most likely at its meeting on 26th November 2018.</p>
	<p>There being no further business, the Town Mayor closed the meeting at 8.12 p.m.</p> <p>Signed: Dated: Town Mayor</p>