

**WESTON-SUPER-MARE TOWN COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT  
THE TOWN HALL ON  
MONDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2019**

**Meeting Commenced:** 7.00 pm

**Meeting Concluded:** 8.35 pm

**PRESENT:** Councillors Canniford (Town Mayor), Mark Aplin, Ray Armstrong, Roger Bailey, Gill Bute, Gillian Carpenter, James Clayton, Peter Crew, John Crockford-Hawley, Ciaran Cronnelly, David Dash, Peter Fox, Catherine Gibbons, David Hitchins, Jan Holloway, Daniel Marcos-Ashworth, Pete McAleer, Robert Payne, Alan Peak, Marcia Pepperall, Lisa Pilgrim, Ian Porter, Sonia Russe, Ella Sayce, Tim Taylor, Helen Thornton and Richard Tucker.

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Malcolm Nicholson (Town Clerk), Sarah Pearse (Deputy Town Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer), Samantha Bishop (Committee Officer), Chris Millard (Mayors Civic Officer), Reverend Peter Ashman (Town Mayors Chaplain), John Turner (Visit Somerset), Beverly and Sarah Milner-Simmons (Eat Festivals), Cara MacMahon (North Somerset Council) and Richard Nightingale.

The Town Mayor invited his Chaplain to say prayers.

Beverly and Sarah Milner-Simmons of Eat Festivals addressed the council and gave an update on the Festival which was in its fourth year of operation and working with over 300 local businesses. The Town Council's involvement and having a stand at the Festival was really welcomed the council was thanked for its continued support.

<b>83</b>	<p><b>To receive Apologies for Absence</b></p> <p>Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Dorothy Aggassiz, Mike Bell, Sarah Codling and Roz Willis.</p>
<b>84</b>	<p><b>Declarations of Interest</b></p> <p>There were no declarations of interest received.</p> <p>The Town Mayor reminded councillors that they needed to formally register their interests with the Town Clerk if they hadn't already done so.</p>
<b>85</b>	<p><b>To approve the accuracy of the Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on the 16<sup>th</sup> May 2019</b></p> <p>The minutes of the meeting had been previously circulated with the agenda.</p> <p><b>PROPOSED BY:</b> Councillor Alan Peak <b>SECONDED BY:</b> Councillor Ian Porter</p> <p>A vote was taken and <b>carried</b>.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> That the minutes be approved.</p>

<p><b>86</b></p>	<p><b>To receive announcements and communications from the Town Mayor</b></p> <p>The Town Mayor’s announcements and communications had been previously circulated with the agenda which reported that he and the Mayoress had attended 43 engagements; the Deputy Mayor had attended 4 on his behalf and the Leader 1; which was a total of 48 to date.</p> <p>The Town Mayor highlighted on the visit from the Mayor of Hildesheim which went very well and thanked the Civic Officer for arranging the visit so well.</p> <p>Invitations for the RFA Tideforce service of dedication on 30<sup>th</sup> July had been issued and the Town Mayor reminded members to take photographic ID.</p> <p>A member suggested that a mini bus be organised to which the Town Clerk said he would arrange if there was sufficient demand from members.</p>
<p><b>87</b></p>	<p><b>To receive the Notes of the Youth Council Meeting</b></p> <p>The notes of Youth Council meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> June had been previously circulated with the agenda.</p> <p>A member was pleased to see that the Youth Council had identified the problems with litter in the town and would like to see the council support them in tackling this issue, especially on the seafront where litter after busy events was a problem.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> Noted.</p>
<p><b>88</b></p>	<p><b>Visit Somerset - Presentation by John Turner</b></p> <p>The Mayor invited John Turner to make his presentation.</p> <p>John Turner thanked members for the opportunity to present and extend an invitation for the council to be a Strategic Partner of Visit Somerset. He then explained the Strategic Partner listing package and invited any questions from members.</p> <p>Debate ensued. The Town Council wanted to work with Visit Somerset but there was disappointment that they had disregarded the Somerset coastline beach resorts.</p> <p>The Town Mayor enquired as to the number of social media hits to which John reported that hits had reached over 5 million. They had recently moved their marketing and social media in house, no longer using agencies for this which meant that more monies could be reallocated and spent on the website and social media.</p> <p>The Mayor asked what the council would receive in return for the £1,500 investment to which John reiterated the Strategic Partner Listing package highlighting the website page, link to events and a position on the board.</p> <p>It was queried what links Visit Somerset had with attractions north of Weston-super-Mare such as Clevedon and Portishead.</p>

	<p>John mentioned links with Noah’s Arc and Clevedon Hall as well as several other attractions but had no links with other town councils.</p> <p>Clarity was requested on the possibility of featuring in the brochure and voucher map. John explained that there was room for further negotiation on this. He was meeting with the local MP the following week in the hope to drive Visit Somerset forward.</p> <p>The Mayor advised that any further options could be considered by the Tourism and Leisure Committee in the future.</p> <p><b>PROPOSED BY:</b> Councillor Alan Peak  <b>SECONDED BY:</b> Councillor Robert Payne</p> <p>A vote was taken and <b>carried</b>.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> That the council accept the proposal to become a strategic partner of Visit Somerset at the annual cost of £1,500 + vat.</p> <p><i>John Turner thanked members and left the meeting at 7.39pm.</i></p>
<p><b>89</b></p>	<p><b>North Somerset Council consultation on a Draft Shopfront Design Guide (and conversion of Use Class A properties to residential use) SPD - Cara MacMahon Heritage Action Zone Project Officer Place making and Growth Development Team North Somerset Council</b></p> <p>The Town Mayor invited Cara to present on the draft Shopfront Design Guide which had been previously circulated electronically to members and was available in hard copies at the meeting.</p> <p>Since Weston had become a conservation area in December 2018, Cara with a team of officers had developed and produced the draft design guide. It was currently in draft format with a consultation deadline of 12<sup>th</sup> August. A final draft would be submitted to full council in September. If members required any further details they were advised to contact Cara direct.</p> <p>The Town Clerk advised that members could respond individually, as well as responding as a council, via the emailed link previously circulated to them.</p> <p>Members were happy to support the design guide and encouraged the development of ground floor level properties to address current poor standards.</p> <p>Cara advised that there was a section within the design guide on the conversion of retail to residential properties using poor materials.</p> <p>In answer to a question regarding grants available for conversions, Cara explained that Historic England would fund 75% of the capital works for retail developments only. The areas identified for the first phase were Grove Village, mid High Street and Orchard Meadows and it was hoped that there would be a long list of businesses willing to sign up.</p> <p>It was queried if ‘commercial’ included office spaces. Cara confirmed that it did on ground floor level, but there were not any in the current formula.</p>

	<p>In response to a question, Cara explained that local retailers were the focus and not the major retailers, however the major retailers would be supported with their developments. As a conservation area this gave the guide more impact.</p> <p>It was asked whether, considering the current high street retail crisis, there was any encouragement to converting retailers into residential developments. Cara explained that there was a passive encouragement through the SPD guide.</p> <p>The Mayor highlighted that security shutters needed a section detailing options.</p> <p><b>PROPOSED BY:</b> Councillor John Crockford-Hawley  <b>SECONDED BY:</b> Councillor Ian Porter</p> <p>A vote was taken and <b>carried</b>.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> To support the Draft Shopfront Design Guide (including the conversion of Use Class A properties to residential use).</p> <p>Cara thanked members and reminded them that the final version would be approved by North Somerset Council at their meeting on the 24<sup>th</sup> September.</p> <p><i>Cara left the meeting at 7.56pm.</i></p>
<p><b>90</b></p>	<p><b>Affiliation of the town with RFA Tideforce</b></p> <p>The recommendation from Policy and Finance Committee on 15<sup>th</sup> April and a minute extract had been previously circulated with the agenda.</p> <p>A member queried the link between Weston and RFA (Royal Fleet Auxiliary) Tideforce to which it was suggested there was a historic family link between a Weston hotel and the vessel.</p> <p>Members considered it a great honour to be chosen for the affiliation.</p> <p>In response to a question the Town Clerk advised that the August Service of Dedication to which all members had been invited would incur minimal transportation costs to the council.</p> <p><b>PROPOSED BY:</b> Councillor Alan Peak  <b>SECONDED BY:</b> Councillor Roger Bailey</p> <p>A vote was taken and <b>carried</b>.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> To approve the affiliation of the Town Council with RFA Tideforce.</p>
<p><b>91</b></p>	<p><b>Development of a new Town Council Strategy 2020-24</b></p> <p>The report of the Town Clerk had been previously circulated with the agenda which outlined a recommendation for consideration.</p> <p><b>PROPOSED BY:</b> Councillor Alan Peak  <b>SECONDED BY:</b> Councillor Ian Porter</p> <p>A vote was taken and <b>carried</b>.</p>

	<p><b>RESOLVED:</b> That the Council set up a small Working Group consisting of group leaders and deputy group leaders of all three political groups, with Councillor Ella Sayce to replace the deputy leader of the Liberal Democrat group, to discuss and agree the contents of a Strategy and report back to the Town Council.</p>
<p><b>92</b></p>	<p><b>To Review Financial Regulations</b></p> <p>The Financial Regulations had been previously circulated with the agenda with proposed amendments indicated.</p> <p>The Deputy Town Clerk/RFO advised of the following main proposed changes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2.6 The level of reserves to be maintained</li> <li>4.2 AGAR (annual return) changes</li> <li>4.4 Further AGAR changes</li> <li>11.2 Amended public procurement regulations</li> </ul> <p>There were some other very minor changes made to tidy up the document.</p> <p><b>PROPOSED BY:</b> Councillor Ian Porter  <b>SECONDED BY:</b> Councillor Alan Peak</p> <p>A vote was taken and <b>carried</b>.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> To approve the proposed changes to the Financial Regulations.</p>
<p><b>93</b></p>	<p><b>Christmas Lights Procurement – to set up a Members Panel</b></p> <p>The report of the Town Clerk had been previously circulated with the agenda which outlined a recommendation for consideration.</p> <p>The Town Clerk added that a panel meeting to consider the tenders should be scheduled for the last week of July and that nine tenders had been received.</p> <p>The Town Clerk confirmed that the budget had already been approved by members and all tenders were within the set budget.</p> <p><b>PROPOSED BY:</b> Councillor Alan Peak  <b>SECONDED BY:</b> Councillor Ian Porter</p> <p>A vote was taken and <b>carried</b>.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. That councillors Catherine Gibbons, Sonia Russe, Peter Crew, Alan Peak and John Crockford-Hawley form a Selection Panel to consider tenders.</li> <li>2. That the Selection Panel be authorised to make the decision to select the winning tender and let the contract.</li> <li>3. That the Council’s substitution scheme apply to the Panel in case of a member not being available.</li> </ol>

<p><b>94</b></p>	<p><b>To appoint a Town Council representative to the Wyndham Lecture Trust</b></p> <p>The Town Clerk informed that nobody had come forward at the May Town Council meeting to fill the vacancy. After enquiring with the Trust, they confirmed that they would like a representative from the council to attend their meetings, which were only twice a year.</p> <p><b>PROPOSED BY:</b> Councillor Robert Payne  <b>SECONDED BY:</b> Councillor Alan Peak</p> <p>A vote was taken and <b>carried.</b></p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> That Councillor Catherine Gibbons be appointed representative to the Wyndham Lecture Trust.</p> <p>Councillor Ian Porter informed that there was a vacancy on the Water Safety Board.</p> <p>It was agreed on all sides of the chamber that Councillor Sonia Russe be appointed representative to the Water Safety Board.</p>
<p><b>95</b></p>	<p><b>Motion to Council under SO11 from Councillor Roger Bailey</b></p> <p>Councillor Roger Bailey was invited to propose his motion to the council.</p> <p>"Previously Weston Town Council has written to the BNS&amp;SG Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) to support equal consideration of the consultants' plans for the restoration of 24/7 Accident &amp; Emergency care at Weston General Hospital.</p> <p>Also on the 14th March 2019 John Penrose MP wrote to the CCG to request that a "clinical trial" take place to gather necessary data to evaluate the consultants' proposals. We understand that this trial has not taken place and we are concerned the CCG are not fully evaluating options as we expected.</p> <p>For this and for the unsatisfactory consultation process, we instruct the town clerk to write to the CCG to register this Council's continued frustration over the protracted A&amp;E overnight closure and secondly to write to North Somerset Council to demand that they use their authority to refer the matter to the Secretary of State for Health"</p> <p><b>PROPOSED BY:</b> Councillor Roger Bailey  <b>SECONDED BY:</b> Councillor Peter Fox</p> <p>An amendment was then</p> <p><b>PROPOSED BY:</b> Councillor Helen Thornton  <b>SECONDED BY:</b> Councillor Tim Taylor</p> <p>To replace the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraphs of the motion to read</p> <p>"We instruct the Town Clerk to write to the CCG to register the Council's continued frustration over the protracted overnight closure of Weston A&amp;E and to include in his letter the following points:</p>

- To request that the proposals to make the overnight closure permanent are postponed pending the planned merger with the BRI, thereby allowing for a solution to the current recruitment problems.
- To request that further work is undertaken on the hospital consultants' proposals, and that the CCG also seek advice from the National Centre for Rural Health and Care, whose remit also includes coastal towns.
- To inform the CCG that this Council endorses the view of the Save Weston A&E campaign group that the population of Weston needs a 24/7 A&E, that the consultation process is flawed, and that future plans to make Weston General Hospital a place for elective surgery only are unacceptable and would result in Weston becoming England's largest town without an acute hospital.

We also ask the Town Clerk to write to North Somerset Council to demand that they use their authority to refer the matter to the Secretary of State for Health."

Debate ensued regarding the removal of the 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph of the original motion and the input and effectiveness of the MP was strongly contested. Other members stressed the importance of the issue for the town and the need to work together as a council, regardless of the detailed wording of the motion.

A vote was taken on the amendment and **carried**.

The amendment now became the substantive motion and a vote was taken and **carried**.

**RESOLVED:**

"Previously Weston Town Council has written to the BNS&SG Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) to support equal consideration of the consultants' plans for the restoration of 24/7 Accident & Emergency care at Weston General Hospital.

We instruct the Town Clerk to write to the CCG to register the Council's continued frustration over the protracted overnight closure of Weston A&E and to include in his letter the following points:

- To request that the proposals to make the overnight closure permanent are postponed pending the planned merger with the BRI, thereby allowing for a solution to the current recruitment problems.
- To request that further work is undertaken on the hospital consultants' proposals, and that the CCG also seek advice from the National Centre for Rural Health and Care, whose remit also includes coastal towns.
- To inform the CCG that this Council endorses the view of the Save Weston A&E campaign group that the population of Weston needs a 24/7 A&E, that the consultation process is flawed, and that future plans to make Weston General Hospital a place for elective surgery only are unacceptable and would result in Weston becoming England's largest town without an acute hospital.

	<p>We also ask the town clerk to write to North Somerset Council to demand that they use their authority to refer the matter to the Secretary of State for Health.”</p>
	<p>There being no further business, the Town Mayor closed the meeting at 8.35 pm.</p> <p>Signed: ..... Dated: ..... Town Mayor</p>