

**WESTON-SUPER-MARE TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
HELD ON 16TH MARCH 2020
AT THE TOWN HALL**

Meeting Commenced: 6.30 pm

Meeting Concluded: 6.40 pm

PRESENT: Councillors Mark Canniford (Town Mayor), Dot Agassiz, Marc Aplin, Roger Bailey, Gill Bute, Gillian Carpenter, James Clayton, Sarah Codling, Ciaran Cronnelly, David Dash, Catherine Gibbons, Pete McAleer, Robert Payne, Alan Peak, Marcia Pepperall, Lisa Pilgrim, Ian Porter, Sonia Russe, Tim Taylor and Richard Tucker.

IN ATTENDANCE: Malcolm Nicholson (Town Clerk), Chris Millard (Mayors Civic Officer), Becky Walsh (Communications Officer/Administrator), Matthew Hardy (Weston Museum Visitor Services Manager), Henry Woodford, (Weston & Somerset Mercury) Sally Heath (Blakehay Theatre Manager), Hannah Cooke (Deputy Mayoress) and 1 member of the public.

The Mayor thanked and welcomed everyone to the Annual Town Meeting. The Mayor made reference to the current coronavirus outbreak.

The 20th Annual Report of Weston-super-Mare Town Council was circulated.

1.	Apologies for Absence Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Ray Armstrong. Mike Bell Peter Crew, John Crockford-Hawley, Peter Fox, David Hitchins, Jan Holloway, Daniel Marcos-Ashworth, Ella Sayce and Roz Willis.
2.	Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on 18th March 2019 PROPOSED BY: Councillor Ian Porter SECONDED BY: Councillor Alan Peak RESOLVED: That the minutes be agreed and signed by the Chairman as a true record.
3.	Presentation of the 2020 Annual Report The Town Mayor introduced the Leader and Chairman of the Policy and Finance Committee, Councillor Alan Peak. Councillor Alan Peak stated that it was his pleasure to present the 20 th Annual Report and reported that:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Since the last Annual Town Meeting in March 2019 we had our local elections in May, which resulted in the Town Council seeing some long standing councillors leaving and being replaced by several new councillors.• We as Councillors were lucky to have excellent and dedicated staff who once again managed us through some difficult but also many positive issues. <p>The Leader then highlighted what does the Council did and what it was there for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• In its simplest terms we were here to spend taxpayers' money on services and facilities that you the people of Weston want.• Weston Town Council was entirely independent of NSC and received no money from central government and had to set its own Budget to pay for those services.• Our councillors are all unpaid.• We run and maintain, the Museum, Blakehay theatre, Water Park, 2 skate parks, 6 toilets which were saved a few years ago as NSC wanted to close them, over 20 play areas, Bus shelters and dog bins.• We also lobby other organisations which affect the town. <p>He highlighted the following achievements that the Council made through the year:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Given a total of £7,500 in financial grants to many local organisations over the last year.• The Weston Museum in Burlington Street since its reopening was going from strength to strength, with around 31,000 people visiting last year.• The Blakehay Theatre was continuing to provide new shows and talks, which was attracting people from in and outside of Weston.• Our Water Park on the seafront was always popular. Last season around 20,000 people attended.• The Visitor Information Centre on the seafront has had an excellent year and thanks to the hard work of its staff and volunteers the Centre had won several Tourism Awards.• The council continues to support Weston in Bloom. Those lovely flower displays you see all around the town were the work and dedication of the Weston in Bloom Volunteers. They all put in hours of work last year and brought home a Silver Gilt Award in the South West in Bloom competition.• The council also has continued to offer support to Citizens Advice Bureau and helped with funding for the Homeless Support Centre here in the town.• We have throughout the past year expressed our disappointment at the continued overnight closure of our A & E Department at Weston Hospital. This council will continue to seek assurance that Weston Hospital does not lose any of its services which the people of Weston depend upon. <p>The Leader then reported that the Council had also embarked on various and exciting projects for the coming year:</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This council has put aside £100,000 to enable us to tackle Climate Change, which was a very serious subject. • Crime and Disorder. <p style="margin-left: 40px;">There has been an increase in reports of damage to properties, and unsocial behaviour in Weston, so we have taken positive steps to tackle crime and disorder in our town and put aside £50,000.</p> • The council has given a total of £7,500 in financial grants to many local organisations over the last year. • We intend to take on extra staff to help tidy up cycle paths, footpaths and tackle litter hotspots, and dog bins. <p>The Leader thanked his fellow councillors for their work and support over the year. He also thanked everyone for coming.</p> <p>The Town Mayor thanked the Leader for his presentation.</p>
<p>4.</p>	<p>Matters raised by members of the public</p> <p>The Town Mayor then invited contributions from members of the public. There were none.</p>
	<p>There being no further business, the Mayor, Councillor Mark Canniford, thanked those for attending the meeting and closed the meeting at 6.40 pm.</p> <p>Signed: Dated: The Mayor of Weston-super-Mare</p>