

**WESTON-SUPER-MARE TOWN COUNCIL
COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 14th JULY 2014
AT GROVE HOUSE**

Meeting Commenced: 7.00 pm

Meeting Concluded: 9.25 pm

PRESENT: Councillors Raymond Armstrong, Roger Bailey, Clive Darke, Peter Fox, David Hitchins, Claire Kingsbury-Bell, Lisa Pilgrim, Tim Taylor, Rose Warwick, Clive Webb and John Crockford-Hawley (S)

IN ATTENDANCE: Malcolm Nicholson (Town Clerk), Helen Morton (Finance Officer), Sally Heath (The Blakehay Theatre Manager), Rob Thurston (Grounds Manager), Bethan Evans (Weston Mercury), Caroline Ashworth (Bringing Communities Together) and Jennifer Lawley (Committee Officer).

131.	<p>Election of Chairman for the year 2014/15</p> <p>The Town Clerk invited nominations for the position of Chairman.</p> <p>PROPOSED BY: Councillor Clive Webb SECONDED BY: Councillor David Hitchins</p> <p>RESOLVED: That Councillor Lisa Pilgrim be elected Chairman of the Community Services Committee for the year 2014/2015.</p> <p>Councillor Lisa Pilgrim took her place as Chairman of the meeting.</p>
132.	<p>Apologies for Absence and Notification of Substitutes</p> <p>Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Simon Stokes and Holly Young together with Rob Penney, Programme Development Officer -YMCA</p> <p>Councillor Holly Young was substituted by Councillor John Crockford-Hawley.</p> <p><i>Councillor Rose Warwick who was in attendance, informed that she would be required to leave the meeting at 8.15 pm and gave her apologies.</i></p>
133.	<p>Declarations of Interest</p> <p>As a resident of Worlebury, the Chairman declared a personal interest in Grant Applications, agenda item 7 (minute no: 137.2) in respect of Worlebury Residents' Association and declared that she would withdraw from the meeting during debate and return only when a resolution had been moved.</p>
134.	<p>Minutes of the Community Services Committee Meeting held on the 12th May 2014</p> <p>The minutes of the previous meeting had been previously circulated with the agenda.</p> <p>RESOLVED that: The minutes be approved and signed by the Chairman.</p>

	<p>Public Participation (<i>Standing Order No:8</i>)</p> <p><i>The Chairman apologised for the delay due to the election of a Chairman and proceeded to welcome Caroline Ashworth to the meeting, inviting her to step forward to address the Committee.</i></p> <p>Caroline Ashworth who represented 'Bringing Communities Together', introduced herself.</p> <p>'Bringing Communities Together' had previously applied for a Town Council grant in 2013 but on that occasion the grant application had been refused. Ms Ashworth considered that previous minutes had omitted some details about the organisation. She was in attendance to offer more information on the organisation for a better understanding. In the minutes referred to by Ms Ashworth, (<i>identified later by the Committee Officer as the minutes of the 2nd September 2013</i>), Councillors had queried what percentage of people actually lived in Weston-super-Mare and what they intended to contribute to the town. Ms Ashworth circulated a paper which documented the aims and approach of the organisation, the partnerships involved, adult and child demographics together with course and employment demographics. The grant applied for on this occasion was to part fund a Community Development Officer. The intention was to 'buddy up' a native English speaker with a person who had migrated to the area. Ms Ashworth stressed the importance of working together to integrate, and in conclusion informed that the organisation would need to 'buddy up' 30 people and asked Committee Members whether anyone would be interested in 'budding up', which would require one hour of their time.</p> <p>The Chairman asked Members of the Committee whether they had any questions.</p> <p>In response to a question about the necessity and amount of people migrating to the area, Ms Ashworth advised of the legislation set out by Brussels, informing that we are not in control and cannot make the decisions. We could, however, work together. A Councillor added that it was about community and not migration.</p> <p>In response to concerns on the town having to 'fit in' and the query why people chose to leave their home country, a Councillor interceded that migrants pay their taxes and should have the same opportunities as others.</p> <p>The Finance Officer advised that cash at the bank stood at nearly £7000. Ms Ashworth explained that there were overheads to be paid and that in fact the organisation did not have actual cash at the bank. The job of the Community Development Worker would be to assess and monitor the volunteer 'buddies'. In response to a question about where the money was going, Ms Ashworth responded that it was about employing an individual person to guide and inform.</p> <p>The Chairman thanked Ms Ashworth and informed that the grant application would be further discussed under agenda item 6 (minute no: 137).</p> <p><i>Ms Caroline Ashworth left the meeting at 7.10 pm</i> <i>Councillor Tim Taylor joined the meeting at 7.10 pm</i></p>
135.	<p>Election of Vice-Chairman for the year 2014/15</p> <p>The Chairman invited nominations for the position of Vice Chairman.</p>

	<p>PROPOSED BY: Councillor Rose Warwick SECONDED BY: Councillor David Hitchins</p> <p>RESOLVED that: Councillor Roger Bailey be elected Vice Chairman of the Community Services Committee for the year 2014/15.</p>
136.	<p>To note the Terms of Reference</p> <p>The Community Services Committee Terms of Reference had been previously circulated with the agenda.</p> <p>A Councillor queried the Terms of Reference in relation to item number 6 of the document ‘To deal with the oversight of Barcode and Youth Services’, informing that the brand name ‘Barcode’ was out of date.</p> <p>The Town Clerk advised that at the time of approval on the 15th May 2014 at full Town Council, the Terms of Reference reflected the situation at that time and Barcode’s brand name was still in existence. However, the Youth Café did now require rebranding and this was to be addressed.</p> <p>The Town Clerk advised that Disabled Bay Applications and Street Trading Licences were now the remit of the Planning Committee and had, therefore, been deleted from the Community Services Committee’s Terms of Reference.</p> <p>RESOLVED that: The Terms of Reference be noted and approved.</p>
137.	<p>To determine Grant Applications including Youth Council Grants</p> <p>The report of the Finance Officer had been previously circulated with the agenda.</p> <p>137.1 Bringing Communities Together (BCT)</p> <p>Grant applied for: £1000 Under power: Local Government Act 1972 section 137</p> <p>The group was set up in 2010 as a not for profit organisation and offers tailor made learning programmes, activities and events to help the wider community and those from ethnic backgrounds to learn English and integrate with the local community. The grant would be used to help part fund a Community Development Worker role.</p> <p>During the statutory right of public participation, Ms Ashworth who represented ‘Bringing Communities Together’, had offered further information about the organisation and a question and answer session had occurred.</p> <p>The Finance Officer informed that the organisation’s paperwork advised that cash at bank stood at £6,903 and confirmed that the grant was to part fund a Development Worker for assessments. In response to the query of actual costings to employ a Development Worker, the Finance Officer advised that no specific value was given and reiterated that the grant was to part fund the post.</p> <p>Debate ensued on the granting of the award and whether Councillors were against or for, or wished a proportion of the grant to be awarded.</p> <p>A Councillor emphasised the importance of such an organisation in the Central Ward and</p>

informed that whether you agree or do not agree, migration was a reality. Racism was often suffered but not reported to the Police.

Another Councillor advised that comments should be avoided which gave a bad impression of people from other countries. The European Union legislated and as a civilised country, we should conduct ourselves in a civilised manner to help integration. He did however express his own reservations for granting the award, citing finances available and the cost effectiveness of grant aiding employment of an individual to organise rather than self-help organisations, organising themselves. He did consider that it was incumbent on anyone to learn the language of the country where one settled.

Migration as administered in the USA, Australia and Canada was the procedure another Councillor believed should be adopted as these countries look after their own people first.

A Councillor supported a full grant award and informed that he had considerable experience as his wife was originally from Singapore. In his opinion people migrate to this country to work and were more likely to work than the indigenous population. The organisation's aim was integration which was a positive for everyone.

Further debate ensued.

Views were expressed that if Central Government open the borders, then Central Government or the European Union should take responsibility for migrant funding and integration.

Varying opinions had been enunciated for and against either a full, partial or no award at all. Debate had at times been emotive and the Town Clerk reminded the Committee that the Council had a statutory duty in its decision making to have regard to the need to promote harmony and to try to discourage discrimination.

PROPOSED BY: Councillor Raymond Armstrong

SECONDED BY: Councillor Roger Bailey

A vote was taken and **carried**. Accordingly it was:

RESOLVED: To award this grant application the amount of £500

137.2 Worlebury Residents' Association (WRA)

Grant applied for: £1000

Under power: Local Government Act 1972 section 137

Having declared a personal interest in Worlebury Residents' Association's grant application, the Chairman left the meeting at 7.26 pm.

The Vice-Chairman took the chair.

The Finance Officer advised that money at the bank stood at £1657.76 at 31st December 2013. The application was for the purchase of a defibrillator that could be used for anyone visiting Worlebury and the Milton area but specifically for the residents of Worlebury and Milton.

The Town Clerk reminded Members that the Community Services Committee had £4000 until the end of March 2015, £500 of which had already been awarded.

Debate ensued during which it was ascertained that the box that contained the defibrillator was the item for which the grant was required. Members asked that the Chairman rejoin the meeting to explain a little more about the defibrillator, the box and its usage.

The Chairman rejoined the meeting at 7.35 pm

Members were informed that the defibrillator would be located outside Worlebury Golf Club and would be housed in a secure box. The box which contained electrics for the defibrillator needed to remain at a certain temperature and required its own power supply. The defibrillator had been donated and the local community were now involved in raising funds for the box. Access to the defibrillator would be by means of a phone call to obtain the password given by the Ambulance Service and the Service would then talk through the process.

The Chairman left the meeting at 7.38 pm

Further debate ensued which raised concerns about non-professional people using the equipment, whether the defibrillator was necessary in the location given and what the actual costs were. A proposal was, nevertheless, made to award a grant.

PROPOSED BY: Councillor Raymond Armstrong

SECONDED BY: Councillor Roger Bailey

To award this grant application the amount of £500.

A vote was taken. The voting was tied 5 for and 5 against.

The Vice-Chairman exercised his casting vote (*Standing Order No: 6.3*) against the resolution, which was therefore defeated and advised that he would like to have sight of further supporting papers before awarding a grant.

Accordingly it was unanimously:

RESOLVED that:

1. Supporting papers to include medical evidence, choice of location, need and cost be submitted before an award is considered.
2. A representative of Worlebury Residents' Association be invited to the next Community Services Committee meeting.

The Chairman rejoined the meeting at 7.43 pm, thanked the Vice-Chairman and took her place as Chairman of the meeting.

137.3 North Somerset Arts (Weston Branch)

Grant applied for: £1000

Under power: Local Government Act 1972 section 137

The bank balance at 31st May 2014 was credited with £11,000 approximately and the Finance Officer informed that the group were looking for help towards their new

	<p>Partnership Business Plan. The project was to encourage residents in the South Ward area to engage in the arts and as part of their business plan they would set up art workshops and have an Open Arts Exhibition in 2015.</p> <p>Debate ensued during which it was recognised that North Somerset Arts was an established organisation. However, it was unclear whether the organisation was applying for a grant for a Development Officer or for actioning the plan.</p> <p>A vote was taken and carried. Accordingly it was:</p> <p>RESOLVED that: The Finance Officer contacts North Somerset Arts to clarify whether the group are looking for help towards their business plan to either employ a Development Officer or set up art workshops.</p> <p>137.4 Friends of Prince Consort Gardens Grant applied for: £1000 Under power: Local Government Act 1972 section 137</p> <p>The Finance Officer reported that no accounts had been provided as the Friends of Prince Consort Gardens were funded as a project from the budget for 2013/2014 and not from the Small and Voluntary Grants Scheme.</p> <p>The purpose of the group was to maintain the Prince Consort Gardens. Last year, from Town Council funding, they replaced the pump in the fish pond and carried out works to the Birkett Road public entrance including new railings and building a new retaining wall. The grant applied for this year would be specifically for repairs to the Victorian/Edwardian shelter roof and lower window frames.</p> <p>Costs were queried and a quote asked for. In response another Councillor advised that he had undertaken some research and informed that the Friends of Consort Gardens had been successful in gaining awards from Knightstone, North Somerset Council, Weston College and Quartet. The cost would be in the region of £15,000. In support of the Friends of Consort Gardens, a Councillor informed of the crucial work being undertaken in the preservation of important Victorian features and maintenance of the grounds of Prince Consort gardens.</p> <p><i>Councillor King joined the meeting at 7.55 pm.</i></p> <p>PROPOSED BY: Councillor Clive Darke SECONDED BY: Councillor David Hitchins</p> <p>A vote was taken and carried. Accordingly it was:</p> <p>RESOLVED: To award this grant application the amount of £1000.</p> <p><i>Councillor Claire Kingsbury-Bell left the meeting at 8.00 pm and rejoined the meeting at 8.03 pm.</i></p>
138.	<p>References from other Committees:</p> <p>138.1 Museum HLF Working Party</p> <p>The notes of the Museum HLF Working Party held on 29th April 2014 (approved), 20th</p>

May 2014 (approved) and the 24th June 2014 (unapproved) had been previously circulated with the agenda.

RESOLVED that: The notes be received and noted.

The Town Clerk advised that there were three items for Members' attention from the notes of the Museum HLF Working Party dated 24th June 2014.

a) **Note No: 3 – HLF Update:**

RESOLVED that: It be noted that full Town Council agreed in principle on the 7th July 2014 to use general reserves to match fund in support of the Museum HLF bid.

b) **Note No: 4 – Block Fundraiser**

RESOLVED that: The promotion of 'Buy A Block' scheme be noted.

c) **Note No: 5 – Accreditation**

PROPOSED BY: Councillor Clive Webb

SECONDED BY: Councillor Claire Kingsbury-Bell

RESOLVED that:

1. The statement of purpose be formally approved.
2. The Community Services Committee endorse and ratify the decisions of the Museum HLF Working Party.

The Finance Officer left the meeting at 8.05 pm.

138.2 Weston In Bloom Working Party

The notes of the Weston In Bloom Working Party held on 29th April 2014 (approved), 20th May 2014 (approved) and the 24th June 2014 (unapproved) had been previously circulated with the agenda.

Members were informed that Weston In Bloom judging was scheduled for the 16th July 2014. The Chairman requested that all Councillors be emailed the judging schedule for information with a request for volunteer litter pickers.

RESOLVED that: The notes be received and noted.

Allotment Management Sub-Committee

The minutes of the Allotment Management Sub-Committee held on 10th June 2014 had been previously circulated with the agenda. The minutes were draft until approved at the next meeting of the Allotment Management Sub-Committee.

RESOLVED that: The minutes be received and noted.

Councillors Rose Warwick and Cyril King left the meeting at 8.10 pm

139. Management Reports:**139.1 Youth Services**

Youth Café Premises: The Town Clerk informed that an open invitation had been sent to Members for the launch of the new YMCA facility for the 11th July 2014. The Youth Café at South Parade, known as Barcode, was closed with effect on the 30th July 2014. The lease surrender had been concluded in early June 2014.

The Town Clerk informed that the Surrender of Lease had cost £105,000. Taking into account that 15 months still remained on the lease until October 2015, the Town Council may have saved up to £50,000 which included rent of £55,000, business rates of £15,000 per year and the costs of dilapidations. The funding going forward for the Youth Café with the YMCA was at a cost of £65,000; the Barcode Youth Café previously having cost the Town Council around £190,000 per year.

Debate ensued on the rebranding of the Youth Café. The name 'Barcode@theY' was no longer appropriate due to the Barcode brand remaining at the South Parade premises which were now licensed.

RESOLVED that: A meeting be scheduled between YMCA and the Town Council's representative regarding the branding of the Youth Café.

Weston-super-Mare YMCA: The report of the YMCA Operations Manager had been previously circulated with the agenda.

The YMCA Operations Manager's report detailed the transfer of Barcode to the YMCA and informed of the progress of the Service Level Agreement for Worle and the development plan for the refurbishment of Weston Youth Centre.

139.2 The Blakehay Theatre

The report of the Manager of The Blakehay Theatre had been previously circulated with the agenda.

The report which gave a general update, advised of upcoming events, informed of complaints received about the Upper Studio and outlined a proposal for The Blakehay Theatre Café. The report also informed of the sad news of a staff member having lost her fight against cancer.

The Theatre Manager was in attendance and debate ensued. The problems of lighting, ventilation and acoustics with the Upper Studio were ongoing and documented as complaints received from hirers. The Theatre Manager had approached the Town Council's Surveyor regarding priorities with the scheduled planned maintenance proposing that the Upper Studio be addressed before the dressing rooms. It was:

RESOLVED that: The issue of the theatre's Upper Studio's lighting, ventilation and acoustics be brought to the attention of the Policy & Finance Committee.

The Theatre Manager had also brought to the table a detailed proposal for opening the theatre's Café during the day with the intention of attracting more visitors and ticket sales.

Debate ensued. Members were not entirely convinced of the proposal especially as the programme of events in the café was scheduled to start as soon as the 26th July 2014. In order to be worthwhile, it was considered that events such as the WWI exhibition required time so as to avoid a church hall atmosphere. There was also the question of additional cost and staffing. The Town Clerk informed that the theatre had a flexible element to its budget for casual staff but there was a risk element for such a venture.

Overall the proposal was considered commendable although one Councillor had already expressed his concern regarding the sustainability of the Café and the theatre's existing financial commitments.

The Theatre Manager had informed that the proposal was in the Team Plan and had been put forward by theatre staff. In her professional opinion, however, time was limited and in response to a question, she agreed that next year would be more practicable.

RESOLVED that: The Community Services Committee supports the theatre Café proposal as outlined in the report of the Theatre Manager dated the 3rd July 2014 but that it be deferred until 2015.

The Theatre Manager left the meeting at 8.35 pm

139.3 Cemeteries and Allotments

The report of the Grounds Manager had been previously circulated with the agenda.

Members were advised that the flower beds had been replanted with the summer season's flower bedding plants and the new watering contract had ensured a good display.

Maintenance at Milton Cemetery had been challenging due to staff shortages resulting from jury service, leave, diversion of grounds staff to assist with other projects and optimum growing weather. However, the grounds team had now prioritised the cemetery to return the area back to its usual good condition.

The Friends of the Cemetery and the Grounds Staff were later congratulated by a Councillor for their commitment in making the cemetery an increasingly attractive place to visit.

The Grounds Manager's report also detailed the current badger situation at Hutton Moor Allotments and reported on the additional collapse to the access drive that had occurred. A site visit undertaken by a Structural Engineer and a Badger Specialist, resulted in options on how to proceed to resolve the issues. Evaluating and arranging work to fulfil one of the options would inevitably take time. In the meantime it was important to make safe the area with additional barriers and warning signs. To this end barriers had been identified which were good for purpose and could be water filled, interlocked and placed securely on the surface of the ground as digging was not permitted.

In response to a Councillor's comment that he thought that the badger problem had been resolved, the Grounds Manager advised that as far as was known the issue was with recent badger activity and cavities that had already been dug. A permanent solution was being sought with the options presented and a Licence from Natural England was required in order to progress the work.

	<i>The Grounds Manager left the meeting at 8.55 pm</i>
140.	<p>Community Events</p> <p>The Town Clerk delivered a verbal update to inform Members on the progress and proposals that had been put forward for the three community events as resolved at the last Community Services Committee meeting on 12th May 2014. These were a Youth event, a scaled down Weston's Got Talent and a Community Picnic event.</p> <p>Youth Event: A representative of the YMCA , Kevin Lilwall, had tabled an event outline report. The report was proposing that the YMCA hold an event on the 9th August in Grove Park called YMCA Summer Starter with activities and entertainment. The current proposed expenditure exceeded the £1000 budget by £239.40 and the report requested that the budget be increased by that figure.</p> <p>Debate ensued.</p> <p>PROPOSED BY: Councillor Roger Bailey SECONDED BY: Councillor Tim Taylor</p> <p>RESOLVED that : The award of £1,239 be approved subject to the Town Council's involvement being acknowledged in all publicity.</p> <p>Weston's Got Talent: In a report tabled by the Town Clerk, two options were put forward outlining proposed formats for the event and dates in February 2015 for the scaled down Weston's Got Talent, including budgets required. Option 1 came in at a cost of £1283.51 (not including VAT) and option 2 totalled £1416.81 (not including VAT). The only other extra costs would be for prizes and publicity. Sponsorship would be sought again as it was last time which would also contribute to costs.</p> <p>RESOLVED that: The Blakehay Theatre Manager together with her Line Manager be authorised to choose either option 1 or 2 as detailed in the Town Clerk's report for Weston's Got Talent 2015.</p> <p>Third Event: The Town Clerk reported that a proposal to hold an alternative event to that of a Community Picnic had been offered by the Mayor for consideration which if approved would replace the Community Picnic as agreed at the last Community Services Committee meeting.</p> <p>Councillor Holly Young had also submitted a proposal for the event, which could be multicultural and suggesting that the picnic be in the form of a 'Big Lunch' either in Grove Park, possibly in September, or in the Museum courtyard if later in the year.</p> <p>The Mayor's submission was presented to Members. The Mayor proposed staging a Street Theatre WW1 re-enactment at The Blakehay Theatre after the Ceremony of Remembrance Sunday.</p> <p>Debate ensued.</p> <p>Members referred to the excellent WW1 display already exhibited at Weston Museum which could be co-ordinated with the Mayor's proposed community event. However, there was the question of whether people would be interested in attending such an event</p>

	<p>after the Ceremony of Remembrance, be it at The Blakehay Theatre or walking to Weston Museum. The Blakehay Theatre would also come at a cost.</p> <p>Councillors considered that Weston Museum's courtyard would be an excellent venue for a street theatre production and an exhibition.</p> <p>RESOLVED that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The 'Community Picnic' continue as the Town Council's third community event and the remaining Community Events budget be allocated to the 'Community Picnic'. 2. The Mayor be advised to liaise with the Chairman of the Museum HLF Working Party and Chairman of Community Services Committee with regard to the World War One Remembrance street theatre event.
141.	<p>Grove Park Tennis Courts Proposal for a MUGA</p> <p>The report of the Town Clerk was tabled and informed of the motion to the Council moved by Councillor Robert Payne on 25th November 2013.</p> <p>The Town Clerk in response to the resolutions made on the 25th November 2013, had arranged for a leading supplier to submit two alternative proposals for a MUGA (multi use games area). The Town Clerk had approached Weston College and meetings had taken place with Weston College and the landowners, North Somerset Council. As a result, a proposal had been agreed in principle by North Somerset and the College to develop half of the site of the tennis courts as a MUGA and the remaining half as a car park. Weston College were willing to fund a high quality MUGA on half the site with a long term lease of 25 years for use by the College's students and allowing supervised use by the general public.</p> <p>Members' instructions were requested on whether they were prepared to support the lifting of the covenant to enable the half MUGA and half Car Park proposal to proceed.</p> <p>Debate ensued.</p> <p>The Committee felt strongly that the entire site should remain in recreational use.</p> <p>PROPOSED BY: Councillor John Crockford-Hawley SECONDED BY: Councillor Clive Darke</p> <p>RESOLVED that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Grove Park tennis courts area should remain totally recreational in use. 2. A meeting between the Town Council, North Somerset Council, the Church and the College be sought to discuss ways of keeping the area recreational.
142.	<p>Street Naming Matters – Towens Way</p> <p>An email from North Somerset Council had been previously circulated with the agenda.</p> <p>As a result of North Somerset Council being advised that the company Towens had renamed the unadopted part of Warne Road in Weston-super-Mare, 'Towens Way', comments from the Town Council were sought</p>

	<p>RESOLVED that: No objections were raised for the naming of the unadopted part of Warne Road as Towens Way.</p>
<p>143.</p>	<p>CCTV Provision</p> <p>143.1 CCTV Review and findings of North Somerset Council’s Community and Corporate Organisation Policy & Scrutiny Panel were tabled at the meeting having been previously emailed to Committee Members.</p> <p>143.2 CCTV Incidents Summary Reports The CCTV incident summary reports to-date were previously circulated with the agenda.</p> <p>143.3 North Somerset Council’s CCTV Log Books for individual Wards were previously circulated by email to Committee Members.</p> <p>RESOLVED that: All reports be received and noted.</p>
	<p>There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.25 pm.</p> <p>Signed..... Dated..... Chairman</p>