

**WESTON-SUPER-MARE TOWN COUNCIL
COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 9th MAY 2016
AT GROVE HOUSE**

Meeting Commenced: 7.00 pm

Meeting Concluded: 8.05 pm

PRESENT: Councillors Roger Bailey (Chairman), Mark Canniford, James Clayton, Robert Cleland, Sarah Codling, Clive Darke, James Davis, Michal Kus, Robert Payne, Alan Peak, and Len Purnell.

IN ATTENDANCE: Malcolm Nicholson (Town Clerk), Sally Heath (Theatre Manager), Katherine Bell (Museum Supervisor), Rob Thurston (Grounds Manager), Zoe Scott (Community and Grounds Administrator) and Tricia Brabham (Committee Officer)

382	<p>Apologies for Absence and Notification of Substitutes</p> <p>Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Lisa Pilgrim and James Clayton.</p> <p>Councillor Lisa Pilgrim was substituted by Councillor Len Purnell.</p> <p>Councillor Steve Kane was not in attendance.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That apologies be received and noted.</p>
383	<p>Declarations of Interest (<i>Standing Order No:30</i>)</p> <p>There were no Declarations of Interest.</p>
384	<p>Minutes of the Community Services Committee Meeting held on the 25th April 2016.</p> <p>PROPOSED BY: Councillor Michal Kus SECONDED BY: Councillor Sarah Codling</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the minutes be approved and signed by the Chairman.</p>
385	<p>References from other Committees</p> <p>385.1 Weston in Bloom Working Party</p> <p>The notes of the Weston In Bloom Working Party held on the 12th January 2016 (unapproved) had been previously circulated with the agenda.</p> <p>The Chairman noted that there had been a question regarding whether the Civic Society had taken over Jill Dando's garden and advised that North Somerset Council contractors had recently undertaken work in the garden.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the notes of the Weston In Bloom Working Party be received and noted.</p>

	<p>385.2 Museum HLF Working Party</p> <p>The notes of the HLF Working Party held on 7th January 2016 (approved) and 4th February 2016 (unapproved) had been previously circulated with the agenda.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the notes be received and noted.</p>
386	<p>Youth Services</p> <p>The report of the Senior Youth Lead Worker had been previously circulated with the agenda.</p> <p>A member requested that a tribute to the hard work of the people working at the YMCA and those involved in the Youth Council be minuted.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the report be noted.</p>
387	<p>Blakehay Theatre</p> <p>The report of the Theatre Manager had been previously circulated with the agenda.</p> <p>When questioned the Theatre Manager advised members that a John West engineer had visited and would provide a quote for putting thermostats on the radiators upstairs.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the report be noted.</p>
388	<p>Grounds Service Management Report</p> <p>The report of the Grounds Manager had been previously circulated with the agenda.</p> <p>The Grounds Manager advised the monkey puzzle tree that had died had been replaced by a new monkey puzzle tree. The old tree had been removed by crane to avoid damage to the nearby graves. A replacement programme for dead or dying trees was being looked at.</p> <p>The badger licence for removal of badgers at Hutton Moor Allotments had been applied for.</p> <p>The Town Clerk advised members that the Allotment Club had responded to the draft agreement and whilst they were broadly happy with the agreement they had a couple of points that needed further discussion.</p> <p>When questioned, the Grounds Manager advised members that a specialist tree surgeon provided consultation and advice on the trees, and was a valued external resource.</p> <p>The Town Clerk advised members that he was in discussion with North Somerset Council about trees overhanging the play area at the bottom of Ashcombe Park. Debate ensued. A member expressed concern that a number of trees needed attention. He had spoken to Gareth Withers at North Somerset Council, but would provide the Town Clerk with details about the specific trees for a further approach to be made to North Somerset Council.</p>

	<p>The Town Clerk advised members that the programme of repair and replacement of bus shelters approved at the Community Services meeting on the 11th January 2016 had all been completed other than the bus stop at Asda and permission was required from Asda before work could be undertaken.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That a letter be sent to North Somerset Council expressing concern about the condition of trees in Ashcombe Park.</p>
389	<p>Weston Museum</p> <p>The report of the Museum Supervisor had been previously circulated with the agenda.</p> <p>The Museum Supervisor advised that visits to Special Education Needs schools were now being undertaken and these as well as the visits to other schools were being well received by pupils, teachers and volunteers.</p> <p>The Museum Supervisor advised that tours of the museum for stakeholders including the councillors had been very successful.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the report be noted.</p>
390	<p>Blakehay Review</p> <p>The Town Clerk advised members that the Expenditure and Governance Working Party were undertaking a thorough review of the Blakehay with nothing ruled in or out. An Extraordinary Meeting of Expenditure and Governance at the Blakehay had discussed the role of the college, the Songs from the Shows booking, and the subsidy to the theatre of £46,717 for 2015/16 which had been better than expected. The Chairman of the Expenditure and Governance Working Party advised that he hoped to be able to make recommendations to committee following the next meeting of the Working Party.</p> <p>A meeting between the Town Clerk, the Chairman of the Community Services Committee and Weston College had proved positive. The College had no plans to reduce use of the Blakehay Theatre, and the suggestion regarding the use of the upper studio as teaching space and opening up of the stage had been well received. The Chairman informed members that they would be interested in using the upper studio as a dance studio if issues with the floor were addressed.</p> <p>Debate ensued. A member enquired if the College would continue to receive the discount on the booking they received or if the College had been given the option to buy the Theatre. The Town Clerk advised that the discount on the booking was given as that was the Council's pricing policy.</p> <p><i>The Theatre Manager left the meeting at 7.40pm</i></p>
391	<p>Events for 2016 and Weston's Got Talent</p> <p>The report of the Community and Grounds Administrator had been previously circulated with the agenda.</p>

	<p>The Community and Grounds Administrator advised members that Weston's Got Talent had been cancelled due to lack of applications. The lack of public engagement with some of the events was a concern and affecting the ability of the Council to raise sponsorship. Conversations were being had with schools and PTAs about the type of events they would like to attend.</p> <p>The Community and Grounds Administrator advised members that it may be possible to reduce the four events that the Council holds to two bigger events.</p> <p>A member requested that the work of the Community and Grounds Administrator was officially noted as she had put a great deal of work and enthusiasm into Weston's Got Talent.</p> <p>Debate ensued. Members discussed Council events, and concern was raised that events such as the Mayor's Ball did not have the prestige they once had. The need for councillors and officers to work together on events was discussed as was the community leadership role elected members were expected to fulfil. The cost of events such as the Mayor's Ball putting off potential guests was raised.</p> <p>The need for a working party of councillors and officers to evaluate the type of events the Council wants to put on was addressed.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That an informal working party of councillors and officers be set up to consider what events the Town Council should support future years.</p> <p><i>7.50pm The Community and Grounds Administrator, Grounds Manager and Museum Supervisor left the meeting.</i></p>
392	<p>Dog Bins</p> <p>The report of the Secretary to the Town Clerk had been previously circulated with the agenda.</p> <p>The Town Clerk informed members that the Town Council had budget remaining for one new dog bin and had received applications for three new bins.</p> <p>Application 1 Uphill Ward Received from Councillor John Ley-Morgan of North Somerset Council</p> <p>Application 2 Winterstoke Ward – Maltlands Received from a local resident.</p> <p>Application 3 Received from a local resident</p> <p>Debate ensued. Members discussed that the funding should go to the bin that demonstrates the greatest need. There was concern that Application 1 was from a North Somerset councillor to the Town Council, when North Somerset Council should provide dog bins. Whilst a dog bin had been agreed for the Winterstoke Ward in the previous Community Services Committee meeting, Application 2 was the other side of the ward and was not in an area well populated with bins. The possibility of delaying the decision until the next meeting was raised.</p>

	<p>PROPOSED BY: Councillor Sarah Codling SECONDED BY: Councillor Len Purnell</p> <p>A vote was taken, with 5 votes for and 5 votes against, the Chairman made the deciding vote against. Accordingly the proposal was not carried.</p> <p>The Chairman requested that the applications be reconsidered at the next meeting.</p>
393	<p>Community Assets</p> <p>The Chairman advised that an email had been received from a member of the public regarding Jill Dando's garden and its poor state of repair. Since then North Somerset contractors had undertaken some work to the flower beds but not the infrastructure.</p> <p>The railings in Grove Park were also in a poor state, and a member advised that contact had been made with North Somerset Council and they were being replaced.</p> <p>The Chairman requested that the Expenditure and Governance Working Party investigate the condition of Grove Park and what the Town Council could do about it. A member suggested the Town Council offer to replace the fence by the café to improve the appearance of the area. Councillor Canniford advised he would speak to North Somerset Council about the fence.</p> <p>The Chairman of the Expenditure and Governance Working Party advised that Street Furniture was going to be reviewed at a future Working Party meeting.</p>
	<p>There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.05 pm</p> <p>Signed: Dated: Chairman</p>