

**WESTON-SUPER-MARE TOWN COUNCIL  
COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE  
MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 9<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2017  
AT GROVE HOUSE**

**Meeting Commenced:** 7.00 pm

**Meeting Concluded:** 8.05 pm

**PRESENT:** Councillors Roger Bailey (Chairman), Ray Armstrong, Mark Canniford, James Clayton, Robert Cleland, Sarah Codling, Clive Darke, James Davis, Michal Kus and Richard Tucker

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Councillors John Crockford-Hawley and Richard Nightingale, Malcolm Nicholson (Town Clerk), Rob Thurston (Grounds Manager), Sally Heath (Blakehay Theatre Manager), Zoe Scott (Community and Grounds Administrator), Sarah Robinson (The Mercury) and Jennifer Lawley (Committee Officer)

Prior to the commencement of the meeting, the Chairman invited questions and observations from parishioners present. (*Standing Order No:8*)

<b>238.</b>	<p><b>Apologies for Absence and Notification of Substitutes</b></p> <p>Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors Len Purnell and Steve Kane together with Kevin Lilwall (YMCA).</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> That apologies be received and noted.</p>
<b>239.</b>	<p><b>Declarations of Interest</b> (<i>Standing Order No:30</i>)</p> <p>There were no Declarations of Interest received.</p>
<b>240.</b>	<p><b>Minutes of the Community Services Committee Meeting held on the 7<sup>th</sup> November 2016</b></p> <p><b>PROPOSED BY:</b> Councillor Michal Kus <b>SECONDED BY:</b> Councillor Ray Armstrong</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> That the minutes be approved and signed by the Chairman.</p>
<b>241.</b>	<p><b>References from other Committees</b></p> <p><b>241.1 Weston in Bloom Working Party (WIB)</b> The minutes of WIB held on the 8<sup>th</sup> November 2016 (unapproved) had been previously circulated with the agenda.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> That the minutes be received and noted.</p> <p><b>241.2 Museum HLF Working Party</b> The minutes of the Museum Working Party held on the 10<sup>th</sup> November 2016 (approved) and 6<sup>th</sup> December 2016 (unapproved) had been previously circulated with the agenda.</p> <p>The commemorative Blue Plaque Scheme had been adopted and was proceeding as per committee resolution under the remit of the Museum Working Party. Members</p>

were informed of budget availability, the design and the need to check whether planning consent would be needed. The intention was to locate the first allocation of blue plaques this year, Paulo Radmilovic being the first. Members were informed by the Chairman of the Museum Working Party that a dozen names of merit associated with Weston-super-Mare had already been identified.

*Councillor Mark Canniford joined the meeting at 7.05 pm*

Members were advised that the scheme had the full support of the Mercury Newspaper who wished to be involved in the wider scheme. The idea was to have a poll to allow members of the public to choose rank order of all the names put forward for the blue plaque scheme. Although the Town Council may only be able to offer 2 or 3 plaques per year, the poll's result could still be adhered to in successive financial years. It was made clear that nominees for a blue plaque must have been deceased. This prompted the question as to whether Richard Tippett had been made aware of the proviso, having requested a blue plaque at the previous Community Services Committee for Richard Hugh Blackmore. The Town Clerk confirmed that he had.

**RESOLVED:** That the minutes be received and noted.

### **241.3 The Events Working Party**

The minutes of the Events Working Party held on 15<sup>th</sup> November 2016 (approved) and 6<sup>th</sup> December 2016 (unapproved) had been previously circulated with the agenda.

The Town Clerk reminded members of the resolutions made at the previous meeting of the full Town Council on the 21<sup>st</sup> November 2016 which was to defer recommendations made by the Events Working Party on Civic and Community Events. The Town Clerk advised members that Community Events was the remit of the Community Services Committee which was to be discussed under agenda item 6. Civic Events had been deferred to the Civic Consultation Group. A member voiced his disappointment with full Town Council as the intention had been for all councillors to debate the recommendations openly, fully and in front of everyone. Instead, the Events Working Party had been made to feel that its interpretation of its remit was incorrect.

**RESOLVED:** That the minutes be received and noted

### **241.4 The Blakehay Theatre Working Party**

The minutes of the Blakehay Theatre Working Party held on the 15<sup>th</sup> December 2016 (unapproved and attached)

The Working Party had chosen a logo for the Blakehay Theatre from several designs. However, firmer proposals on the logo's colour and the theatre's branding would be made at the next meeting on the 12<sup>th</sup> January 2017.

**RESOLVED:** That the minutes be received and noted.

### **241.5 Allotment Management Sub-Committee**

The minutes of the Allotment Management Sub-Committee held on the 14<sup>th</sup> September 2016 (approved and attached) and 7<sup>th</sup> December 2016 (unapproved and attached)

Certain aspects of the minutes of the previous meeting of the Allotment Management Sub-Committee was to be discussed under agenda item 5.4.

	<b>RESOLVED:</b> That the minutes be received and noted.
242.	<p><b>Management Reports</b></p> <p><b>242.1 Youth Services</b> The report of the North Somerset Director of Operations (YMCA) had been previously circulated with the agenda.</p> <p>The YMCA Somerset Coast's report noted and updated members on the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Youth Café YMCA Weston-super-Mare</b></li> <li>2. <b>Community Use</b></li> <li>3. <b>Weston-super-Mare Youth Council</b></li> <li>4. <b>Weston Youth Centre</b></li> <li>5. <b>Links to Town Council Strategy</b></li> </ol> <p>Due to apologies having been received from the North Somerset Director of Operations (YMCA), questions on the report were not raised. However, the Chairman would be interested to know how well the accommodation at the YMCA functioned.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> That the report be received and noted.</p> <p><b>242.2 Blakehay Theatre</b> The report of the Blakehay Theatre Manager had been previously circulated with the agenda.</p> <p>The Blakehay Theatre Manager's report noted and updated members on the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Theatre Review Progress</b></li> <li>2. <b>Staff Recruitment</b></li> <li>3. <b>Ticket Percentages</b></li> </ol> <p>Members were informed that building work on the Upper Studio would commence the 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2017. Having been informed that a sound system and a small lighting system would be sought for the Upper Studio, the question of funding was raised. Members were advised that this equipment was not essential but would be useful.</p> <p>Peter Lea had retired at the end of December after five years at the theatre and service to the Town Council. The Town Mayor was present at his farewell to recognise his service and to wish him well in his retirement.</p> <p>The Town Clerk confirmed that he had sent a letter to the RAFA band to thank them and wish them every success in the future.</p> <p>A member in reference to the Upper Studio referred to the windows and highlighted the need for better ventilation. The Blakehay Theatre Manager confirmed that the studio occasionally became too hot to use, and it was noted that this was the case even though the studio faced east. The question of curtaining arose to keep the sun out. The Town Clerk advised that funding could often be released from the planned maintenance budget to address such issues.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> That the report be received and noted.</p>

	<p><b>242.3. Weston Museum</b> The report of Museum Services had been previously circulated with the agenda.</p> <p>The Museum Services' report noted and updated members on the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. Grant Awards</b></li> <li><b>2. Volunteer Engagement</b></li> <li><b>3. Learning</b></li> <li><b>4. Reminiscence and Community Engagement</b></li> </ol> <p>A member noted how proficient the Town Council was at acquiring grants for the Museum and congratulated the staff involved. The Chairman of the Museum Working Party advised that with a project like this there would always be issues as it was all down to budget. The Working Party had already been advised to think about the next phase. He highlighted the tremendous work and contribution of the museum's volunteers and confirmed that the museum's reopening was on target for August 2017.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> That the report be received and noted.</p> <p><b>242.4. Grounds Service Management Report</b> The report of the Grounds Manager had been previously circulated with the agenda.</p> <p>The Grounds Manager's report noted and updated members on the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. Weston in Bloom</b></li> <li><b>2. Public Toilets</b></li> <li><b>3. Cemetery</b></li> <li><b>4. Allotments</b></li> <li><b>5. Bus Shelters</b></li> </ol> <p>Members were advised that the Expenditure and Governance Working Party had initiated a review of Allotment Performance indicators. As a consequence discussions had taken place at the Allotments Management Sub-Committee to try and establish whether more meaningful indicators could be identified. Members of the Allotment Club were somewhat sceptical. However, the Chairman of the Allotment Management Sub-Committee and the Grounds Manager met thereafter to establish a number of possible indicators.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Number of people requesting plots expressed as a percentage against the total plots available.</li> <li>2. A trend analysis over a longer period to show whether waiting list numbers were tending to fall, rise or remain static.</li> <li>3. The number of plots provided against head of population (as a comparison with other councils).</li> </ol> <p>Debate ensued.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> That the number of people requesting plots expressed as a percentage against the total plots available be used as a performance indicator and that the resolution be put to the next meeting of the Expenditure &amp; Governance Working Party on the 16<sup>th</sup> January 2017.</p>
243.	<p><b>Community Events</b> The report of the Community and Grounds Administrator had been previously</p>

	<p>circulated with the agenda.</p> <p>The Events Working Party had recommended the following programme of events for 2017/2018. The Community Events budget stood at £4000.</p> <p><b>Halloween,</b> Venue: Grove Park Date: Tuesday 31st October 2017 Time: 5.00 pm – 9.00 pm</p> <p><b>YMCA Summer Starter</b> Venue: Grove Park Date: End of July Time: 11am – 5pm</p> <p><b>Flower Show</b> Venue: Grove Park Date: Beginning of August Time: 10.00 am – 4.00 pm</p> <p><b>Literary Festival</b> Venue: Grove Park Date: Beginning of August (day after the Flower Show) Time: 10am – 4pm</p> <p>The Community and Grounds Administrator’s report gave a full breakdown of each proposed event and budgets available. It had been hoped that the Flower Show and Literary Festival could be held in the newly revamped Town Square. However, the Community and Grounds Administrator had been advised that this was not possible. Therefore, Grove Park had been chosen as the venue for both these events. As an option, the Marquee used for the Flower Show could possibly be used for the Literary Festival.</p> <p>Members were asked to approve the community events proposed for the year 2017/2018.</p> <p>Debate ensued.</p> <p><b>PROPOSED BY:</b> Councillor James Davis <b>SECONDED BY:</b> Councillor Clive Darke</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> That the following community events for 2017/2018 be ratified by the Community Services Committee and each event receives £1000 from the Town Council’s Community Events budget:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Halloween</b></li> <li>2. <b>YMCA Summer Starter</b></li> <li>3. <b>Flower Show</b></li> <li>4. <b>Literary Festival</b></li> </ol> <p><i>The Grounds Manager, Community and Grounds Administrator and the Blakehay Theatre Manager left the meeting at 7.45 pm.</i></p>
244.	<p><b>Grant Award Update – Axe District Scouts</b> The report of the Finance Officer had been previously circulated with the agenda.</p>

	<p>At the last meeting of the Community Services committee, members had been unaware that the Youth Council had already awarded a grant of £490.80 to Axe District Scouts. Members wished to honour and ratify the Youth Council's decision but were mindful that the Community Services committee had awarded £1000. It was identified that this had been an administrative error and better practices should be encouraged. Members agreed that it was inappropriate to withdraw the full sum of £1000.</p> <p>Debate ensued.</p> <p>A vote was taken and <b>carried</b>. Accordingly it was:</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. That the report be received and noted.</li> <li>2. That the Town Clerk be tasked with the decision to either award £500 or request that Axe District Scouts reapply for an award of £500 at the next Community Services Committee.</li> </ol>
245.	<p><b>Grove Park War Memorial Sculpture – The Winged Victory</b></p> <p>The report of the Town Clerk had been previously circulated with the agenda.</p> <p>The Town Clerk advised that the Chairman had requested that he look into means by which the War Memorial sculpture in Grove Park might be restored. The Winged Victory had originally held a laurel branch in her right hand but this had now been missing for some decades. The memorial was the property of North Somerset Council who owned Grove Park and who had undertaken repairs to the sculpture a few years ago following vandalism and the theft of plaques in the World War Two section. The Town Clerk advised that grant funding may be available from the War Memorials Trust.</p> <p>Debate ensued.</p> <p>A vote was taken and <b>carried</b>. Accordingly it was:</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. That the report be received and noted.</li> <li>2. That the mechanisms for the restoration of the war memorial be investigated by Town Council Officers and North Somerset Council be advised of the Town Council's concerns.</li> </ol>
	<p>There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.05 pm</p> <p>Signed: ..... Dated: .....</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Chairman</p>