

**WESTON-SUPER- MARE TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE
HELD AT GROVE HOUSE ON
MONDAY 14TH MAY 2018**

Meeting Commenced: 7.00 pm

Meeting Concluded: 8.35 pm

PRESENT: Councillors Roger Bailey (Chairman), Ray Armstrong, Sarah Codling, James Davis, Clive Darke, Denise Hunt, Michal Kus

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Malcolm Nicholson (Town Clerk), Sarah Pearse (Deputy Town Clerk and Responsible Financial (DTC and RFO)), Sally Heath (Blakehay Theatre Manager), Matthew Hardy (Visitor Services Manager), Damien Erangey (Youth and Community Hub Manager, YMCA), Tricia Brabham (Communications and Committee Officer) and Vicky Angear (Weston Mercury)

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| 435 | <p>Apologies for Absence and Notification of Substitutions</p> <p>Apologies of absence were received from Councillors Len Purnell, James Clayton, and Robert Cleland.</p> <p>Councillor Martin Williams was not in attendance.</p> |
| 436 | <p>To receive Declarations of Interest</p> <p>There were no declarations of interest received.</p> |
| 437 | <p>To approve the accuracy of the minutes of the Community Service Committee meeting held on the 12th March 2018.</p> <p>The minutes of the last meeting had been previously circulated with the agenda.</p> <p>It should have been recorded in the minutes that the committee acknowledged the good work of the LGBT forum in the town.</p> <p>It should have been recorded in the minutes that the committee had been advised of the keenness of volunteers to be involved in the Literary Festival.</p> <p>The arrival of Councillor Davis at the meeting had not been recorded and should be.</p> <p>PROPOSED BY: Councillor Michal Kus SECONDED BY: Councillor James Davis</p> <p>RESOLVED: That with the above amendments the minutes be approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record of the meeting.</p> |
| 438 | <p>References from other Committees 438.1 Minutes of Weston in Bloom</p> <p>The minutes of the 20th February 2018 and 12th April 2018 had been previously circulated with the agenda.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the minutes be received and noted.</p> |

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| | <p>438.2 Minutes of the Museum and Heritage Sub Committee The minutes of 12th April 2018 had been previously circulated with the agenda.</p> <p>It was questioned whether, as recorded in the minutes, the Museum was trying to reduce the number of bookings. The Visitor Services Manager advised they were not trying to reduce the number of bookings but were ensuring they take bookings that they could manage within the staffing structure.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the minutes be received and noted.</p> <p>438.3 Minutes of the Allotment Sub Committee The minutes of the 14th March 2018 had been previously circulated with the agenda.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the minutes be received and noted.</p> |
| <p>439</p> | <p>Management Reports</p> <p>439.1 Youth Services The report of the Operations Manager - YMCA had been previously circulated with the agenda.</p> <p>The Chair noted that it was a very positive report.</p> <p>The Youth and Community Hub Manager advised that there were 26 members of the youth council, and they were looking at introducing a voting process to select who would be on the council. Full Youth Council meetings were held every 6 weeks and a working party was also held every 6 weeks.</p> <p>The Town Clerk advised that the Town Council were often accused of focussing on the Town Centre, but through the YMCA, the Town Council were funding activities in Worle, Uphill and Bournville.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the report of the Operations Director -YMCA be received and noted.</p> <p><i>7.10pm The Youth and Community Hub Manager left the meeting.</i></p> <p>439.2 Blakehay Theatre The report of the Blakehay Theatre Manager had been previously circulated with the agenda.</p> <p>The Chair requested that the Theatre Manager include list of events coming up at the Theatre in her next report.</p> <p>The Town Clerk advised that a change in EU legislation from 2019 was causing concern for Theatres. The Theatre Manager advised that the changes to lighting had already been made in the domestic market. The changes would mean that tungsten lamps would have to be replaced with LED lamps. Theatres would no longer be able to buy tungsten bulbs as they were not energy efficient. The LED lamps on the market were not suitable for theatres as they could not produce the same effect as tungsten lamps. This was causing a great deal of concern with theatres, and the price of tungsten bulbs had already increased as theatres stockpiled bulbs.</p> <p>A member asked how many bulbs needed replacing in a year. The Theatre Manager advised it was three or four but the theatre had 30 lamps of different sizes. There was a currently a spare bulb for each lamp in stock.</p> |

Debate ensued. Members discussed options including replacing the lamps as they expired, or increasing stock held at the theatre, with a view to replacing the lamps in the next administration.

PROPOSED BY: Councillor Michal Kus

SECONDED BY: Councillor Sarah Codling

RESOLVED: That up to three years' stock of bulbs be purchased.

Members noted the success of the Laurel and Hardy show that had been bought in but the bar sales had been disappointing.

The Theatre Manager advised that a new coffee machine had been installed.

The Chairman enquired if there had been an increase in bookings in the studio. The Theatre Manager advised that weekly Pilates classes were held in the studio, and children's puppet shows would be starting in October.

RESOLVED: That the report of the Theatre Manager be noted

439.3 Weston Museum

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

The Chairman noted that the café had taken £37,296 and asked how this compared to the budget. The DTC and RFO advised that this the amount that had been taken since opening, and was not where it should be but that it was improving.

The Chairman asked if the new doors to the Museum had made a difference. The Visitor Services Manager advised that aesthetically they were an improvement, but that there were some issues with the weights on them. They had been adjusted to the lowest weight, but going forwards the possibility of an automatic open and close function could be investigated.

The Town Clerk advised that the doors had to meet security requirements for museum collections, as well as being fire doors, and it had been difficult to procure suitable doors that met all these requirements. The DTC and RFO advised that they had been the best doors that the council could afford.

Debate ensued. Only 90 pence a head retail spend was felt to be of concern.

The Museum's social media presence had become much more engaging.

The museum had been very warm during the body art festival. The DTC and RFO advised the extraction system was very noisy, so staff had to be selective about when it was turned on.

In answer to a question the Visitor Services Manager advised there was a leak in the museum's roof. The DTC and RFO advised that it was the old roof leaking in to the new roof. The replacement of that section in the roof was in phase 2 to the project if it goes ahead. In the meantime the Council were paying for repairs to be undertaken as required. The cost of the replacement of the flat roof would be between £50,000 and £100,000.

The Chairman congratulated the Visitor Services Manager (VSM) on getting BBC Radio 4's Any Questions at the Museum and asked how this had been organised. The VSM advised

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| | <p>that it had been set up by the previous VSM but had only happened now.</p> <p>The Chairman asked how the Museum recruited volunteers. The VSM advised that the Museum had 140-150 volunteers. These had been recruited through Voluntary Action North Somerset (VANS) as well as engagement with the local community, including attending the Winter Gardens Job Fair.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the report of the Visitor Services Manager be noted.</p> <p>439.4 Grounds The report of the Grounds Manger had been previously circulated with the agenda.</p> <p>The Community and Grounds Administrator advised that a judging date for Weston In Bloom had been confirmed for the 4th July 2018.</p> <p>The Chairman noted the increase in internments at the cemetery. The Community and Grounds Administrator advised that ex-common graves that had been dug to a double depth, had space for a single interment so these were being used.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the report of the Grounds Manager be noted.</p> |
| 440 | <p><i>7.35pm The Theatre Manager and Visitor Services Manager left the meeting</i></p> <p>Grants The report of the DTC and RFO had been previously circulated with the agenda.</p> <p>Youth Council Grant change of use The DTC and RFO advised that the Youth Council had recommended that £997.27 be awarded to the YMCA to purchase Samba Drums and to deliver associated activities. The YMCA had advised that this money had not been spent on drums due to the Samba instructor being on long term sick, and that they would like to use the money for a wider range of musical instruments.</p> <p>(A member requested that the committee return to the Grounds report to discuss bus shelters as a lot of them were in a poor state, with weeds and dog poo on them. The Community and Grounds Administrator advised she would send the member a list of bus shelters so he could identify which ones were maintained by the Town Council. The committee then returned to the grants discussion.)</p> <p>PROPOSED BY: Councillor Roger Bailey SECONDED BY: Councillor Michal Kus</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the YMCA be given an additional six months in which to use the grant money, which could be spent on musical instruments in general.</p> <p>LGBT Forum Grant Application received Grant applied for £1000 Under power: Local Government Act 1972 section 137</p> <p>The DTC and RFO advised that a grant application had been submitted to the Council for consideration at Christmas but it had not been received. The Committee was being asked to consider the application now as the next meeting of 9th July would be too late.</p> <p>Debate ensued. Members discussed awarding money every year to the same organisations and the need to review the grant process to address concerns.</p> |

The DTC and RFO advised that the LGBT Forum had only submitted a two page finance report, but no bank balance or profit and loss statement as required by the council's grant conditions.

Debate ensued on the need for financial information to support the application.

Councillor Canniford joined the meeting 7.50pm.

PROPOSED BY: Councillor Michal Kus
SECONDED BY: Councillor Sarah Codling

That the grant be awarded on the condition that the full financial information required by the council's grant conditions is submitted to the officers.

An AMENDMENT was:

PROPOSED BY: Councillor Mark Canniford
SECONDED BY: Councillor Denise Hunt

That due to the tight time frame the grant be awarded on this occasion on the proviso that all financial information required is submitted for future applications.

The Proposer of the amendment, Councillor Mark Canniford explained that this is a major community event and good value for money and should be supported.

The Proposer of the motion, Councillor Michal Kus, was happy to withdraw his motion in favour of the above amendment, which therefore became the substantive motion on the table.

A second AMENDMENT was then:

PROPOSED BY: Councillor Sarah Codling
SECONDED BY: Councillor James Davis

That the grant be awarded on the proviso that the required financial information is received to support this application as well as future applications.

Accordingly a vote was taken:

4 votes in favour,
4 votes against.

In the event of a tie the Chairman had a casting vote which he cast in favour and the second amendment was accordingly carried. A substantive vote was then taken and it was:

RESOLVED: That the grant be awarded on the proviso that the required financial information is received to support this application as well as future applications.

RAF 100 anniversary fund

The report of the DTC and RFO had been previously circulated with the agenda.

RESOLVED: That Councillors noted the payment of the £1,000 as approved within the budget setting by council had been paid.

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Public Toilets

The report of the Community and Grounds Administrator had been previously circulated

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| | <p>with the agenda.</p> <p>The Town Clerk advised that officers had been invited to a meeting with the police on anti-social behaviour. During the meeting police advised the public toilets were a location for drug use and crime. The Town Council had experienced a lot of problems with drug use at Grove Park and Locking Road Toilets recently. He advised that while the problems may be seasonal, a review of all the public toilets was needed with the costs of maintaining them and the decrease in income to be considered.</p> <p>Debate ensued. It was noted that full Town Council had received a representation from a resident in Worle about a 'Radar' key for the toilets. The resident had also been advised that they would be invited to a meeting to discuss the toilets but that this had not happened. The Town Clerk advised he was happy to meet with the resident to discuss the toilets.</p> <p>Disappointment was expressed that instead of dealing with the drug and crime use the police had advised closing the toilets. Members discussed the wider social impact of closing the toilets, the impact on residents and tourism, the possibility of CCTV and the costs of running the toilets.</p> <p>In answer to a question of how much in total the Town Council had spent on the public toilets since they took them on, the DTC and RFO advised that including refurbishment it was around £400,000.</p> <p>PROPOSED BY: Councillor Sarah Codling SECONDED BY: Councillor Mark Canniford</p> <p>RESOLVED: That a review of public conveniences be carried out by the Expenditure and Governance Working Party.</p> |
| 442 | <p>Grove Park War Memorial</p> <p>The Town Clerk advised that contracts had been agreed and work was due to start on the 29th May 2018, and due to finish in the first week of June 2018. Work would include repairing the olive branch, pagination of the bronze and cleaning of the plinth. The Committee expressed satisfaction at the good progress made.</p> |
| 443 | <p>Disabled Access at the Railway Station</p> <p>The Chairman advised that he had requested that access at the railway station be added to the agenda as residents had expressed concern about the problems experienced, particularly by disabled people, since the closure of the Sunnyside Road access.</p> <p>The Town Clerk advised he had met with Great Western Railway (GWR) who were the franchisee at Weston Station. The freeholder was Network Rail, who were reportedly planning a longer term project to put in a lift and bridge. GWR would be installing new ticket gates which would enable them to reopen the Sunnyside Road access, which had been closed due to anti-social behaviour. The ticket gates were due to be installed in autumn 2018. There would also be a ticket machine installed at the Sunnyside Road entrance.</p> <p>The Town Clerk was requested to continue monitoring the situation.</p> |
| | <p>There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.35pm.</p> <p>Signed: Dated:</p> <p>Councillor Roger Bailey Chairman of the Community Services Committee</p> |