

**WESTON-SUPER- MARE TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY SERVICES WORKING PARTY
HELD VIA ZOOM
MONDAY 13th SEPTEMBER 2021**

Meeting Commenced: 7.02 pm

Meeting Concluded: 8.48 pm

PRESENT: Councillors Pete McAleer (Chairman), Roger Bailey, Gillian Carpenter, Ciaran Cronnelly, Peter Fox and Helen Thornton.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Sarah Pearse (Deputy Town Clerk/RFO), Fay Powell (Assistant Town Clerk Public Services), Samantha Bishop (Committee Officer), Ali Waller (Youth Services) and Tom Newman.

118 In the absence of the Chairman, The Vice Chairman chaired the meeting.

Apologies for Absence and Notification of Substitutions

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Sarah Codling and Roz Willis with no substitutions.

Councillors Ella Sayce and John Crockford-Hawley were absent from the meeting.

119 **To receive Declarations of Interest**

Declarations of interest were received in respect of item 12 – Citizens Advice North Somerset from Councillor Ciaran Cronnelly as an employee of North Somerset Council and his wife was employed by CANS; and from Councillor Roger Bailey as a trustee of CANS.

It was noted that Councillor’s Peter McAleer and Gillian Carpenter were involved in the consultation for item 8 – Grove Park Feasibility Study.

120 **To approve the accuracy of the minutes of the Community Service Working Party meeting held on 5TH July 2021**

The minutes of the last meeting had been previously circulated with the agenda.

PROPOSED BY: Councillor Ciaran Cronnelly

SECONDED BY: Councillor Helen Thornton

A vote was taken and accordingly it was **carried**.

RECOMMENDED: That the minutes be approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record of the meeting.

At this point in the meeting, the Chairman brought forward item 10 Street Art Trail 2021 ‘Weston Walls’ for discussion in order to accommodate an update from Tom Newman who was in attendance.

121	<p>Street Art Trail 2021 ‘Weston Walls’</p> <p>Tom reported that the art trail had started with 5 pieces completed at the several locations.</p> <p>Dates were being agreed to secure the last 3 artists. Unfortunately, the Premier Inn had not been secured as a site yet but could still be a possibility.</p> <p>The Media coverage had been really well received by the public and the recent ‘Whirly Gig’ spray jam event held at the Italian Gardens was a success and boards sold to local businesses. Engagement sessions with local schools had also been planned for the autumn term.</p> <p>The Deputy Town Clerk reported that it had been great working with Tom and his team on the project.</p> <p>Tom reported that thanks to the funding and commitment from the town council, this gave great leverage to secure matching funding from the Arts Council.</p> <p>RESOLVED: To note the update and the great art work carried out.</p>
122	<p>References from other Committees:</p> <p>None</p>
123	<p>Grounds Management Report</p> <p>The Assistant Town Clerk – Public Services verbally reported that Grove Park toilets were closed due to vandalism and an update on reopening was awaited.</p> <p>The grounds team were extremely thin on the ground due to staff sickness and were trying their best to maintain services.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the verbal report be noted.</p>
124	<p>Report from the Community Response Officer</p> <p>In the absence of The Community Response Officer, the Grounds Manager reported that there had been an increase in rough sleepers in parks generally, but especially Grove Park and Ellenborough Park West.</p> <p>It was reported that the enforcement costs associated with tackling these problems over the past 3months would have been £12,000. The council had been working with multi agencies to address, including involving Positive Steps.</p> <p>There had also been rough sleepers at the Cemetery and cctv cameras were being installed to help tackle this as well as the antisocial behavior.</p> <p>Work had also been undertaken in areas or Worle such as the Queensway and Recce would be able to update any members on specific matters if they contacted him.</p> <p>Discussion ensued regarding Grove Park toilets being vandalised and members were</p>

advised that all activity was reported and regular patrols were being made. It was noted that antisocial activity and drug use had noticeably increased and was increasingly taking place in the daytime.

RESOLVED:

1. That the verbal report be noted.
2. That signage directing people to the nearest toilets be actioned immediately during toilet closures.

125 Service Area reports:

.1 Youth Services

The Operations Manager reported that youth services were operating well and that there was a 'Forces Day' engagement event planned for the 19th October at the YMCA in partnership with other organisations and that the Mayor was attending.

The Deputy Town Clerk reminded members of funds available for community events.

A member suggested linking up with Culture Weston on artwork events for the future.

RESOLVED: That the verbal report be noted.

.2 Community Events

In the absence of the Grounds Coordinator, the Grounds Manager informed of the Love the Outdoors/Wellbeing event scheduled for the upcoming Saturday at Ellenborough Park West. Much entertainment and engagement was planned including bird box making.

RESOLVED: That the verbal report be noted.

.3 Weston in Bloom – Love the Outdoors

The Grounds Manager reported that the Weston In Bloom judging day was a success and included new sites such as Ellenborough Park West with which the judges were impressed.

The volunteer presence had increased at the Cemetery to a weekly basis, supporting the Grounds team and their support was very much appreciated.

RESOLVED: That the verbal report be noted.

Councillor Roger Bailey joined the meeting at 7.40 pm.

126 To consider the Grove Park Public Toilets Feasibility Study

The Feasibility study had been previously circulated with the agenda.

Generally, the conclusions were well received but concerns that if the café opening times were extended that the onus of the problems would be passed onto the café owners. It was also raised that by moving the existing toilet block, the building could not be utilised by the Friends of Grove Park for storage.

A recommendation to Town Council was required and a cost needed to be established for

the demolition of the existing building.

It was felt that the design of the toilets was also key in discussions as they must be vandal proof.

Debate ensued regarding the option to staff the toilets as North Somerset Council had done previously, as this was a deterrent for antisocial/vandalism and maybe less expensive than call outs on reflection.

The Deputy Town Clerk reported that she was involved in the asset transfer of the toilets to the town council and it was noted that staff safety and lone working was an issue. 2/3 attendants would be needed to staff the toilets sufficiently, which was a significant cost to be considered.

The Town Clerk advised that a meeting with North Somerset Council to discuss plans for Grove Park as a whole and the provision of toilets was scheduled for the end of the week.

PROPOSED BY: Councillor Helen Thornton

SECONDED BY: Councillor Roger Bailey

A vote was taken and **carried**, and accordingly it was:

RECOMMENDED: To endorse and welcome the relocation of the Grove Park toilets and café and that discussions with North Somerset Council be commenced to find ways of funding this.

127 Community Resilience Update

The Deputy Town Clerk reported that the team had been busy with projects such as:

Anti-Racism Group meetings – Guest speakers were being invited and attendance and feedback was well received. The aim now was to get the community to take the lead on meetings.

The volunteer base was ever expanding.

Food Clubs and the Community Fridge Project were going from strength to strength and it was hoped that Food Clubs in Central, South and Worle were up and running by the end of the financial year. A unit in the Sovereign Centre had been secured for the Community Fridge and an opening was arranged for October in conjunction with a Climate Change summit.

Members were pleased with the great work being carried out to support the local community.

RESOLVED: That the verbal report be noted.

128 Grant applications

The reports of the Finance Officer had been previously circulated with the agenda.

The annual budget for small and voluntary grants was £12,500 with £1750 already being

approved in 2021/2022 with £10750 balance remaining.

The annual budget for Community Event Grants was £60,000 with £6,000 already being approved in 2021/2022 with £54000 balance remaining.

.1 Flowerdown Tots

Grant applied for £500

Under power: Local Government Act 1972 section 137

The purpose of the grant was for toys, furniture and craft supplies, a contactless card reader and a first aid kit.

It was noted that the organization was outside the parish but may benefit Weston residents.

PROPOSED BY: Councillor Roger Bailey

SECONDED BY: Councillor Helen Thornton

A vote was taken and accordingly it was **carried**

RESOLVED: To obtain further information clarifying if the organisation benefited Weston residents in line with the grant criteria.

.2 The Priory Learning Trust (Jill Dando's Walk)

Grant applied for £3,000

Under power: Local Government Act 1972 section 137

The purpose of the grant was to turn a whole corner of wasteland into a green haven with nature friendly planting, walkways and mature trees at the corner of Redwing Drive, Mead Vale, Worle to be named the Jill Dando Walk. Permission of the landowner had already been sought. Support had already been received by Nigel Dando and Alan Titchmarsh.

PROPOSED BY: Councillor Helen Thornton

SECONDED BY: Councillor Peter Fox

A vote was taken and accordingly it was **carried**

RESOLVED: That £1,000 be granted from the 2021/2022 Community Grants budget.

.3 Friends of Grove Park

Grant applied for £700

Under power: Local Government Act 1972 section 137

The purpose of the grant was to purchase logoed tabards to be worn over anything and are good for both winter and summer months in order that they can be identified by members of the public when volunteering in the park.

PROPOSED BY: Councillor Roger Bailey

SECONDED BY: Councillor Helen Thornton

A vote was taken and accordingly it was **carried**

RESOLVED: That up to £700 be granted from the 2021/2022 Community Grants budget and that the council offer to assist with the purchase of the tabards through its suppliers to feature the council as a sponsor.

**.4 Weston Hospice Care
Grant applied for £1,000
Under power: Local Government Act 1972 section 137**

The purpose of the grant was towards a new laptop to be used within their in-patient unit.

Members felt that £500 was sufficient to buy a suitable laptop.

PROPOSED BY: Councillor Peter McAleer

SECONDED BY: Councillor Roger Bailey

A vote was taken and accordingly it was **carried**

RESOLVED: That £500 be granted from the 2021/2022 Community Grants budget.

For clarity, the Deputy Town Clerk advised that the Community Event Grants budget was awarded under the remit of the Heritage Arts and Culture Committee.

129 Citizens Advice North Somerset

Members were requested to approve payment to CANS for the year 2021/2022.

Councillor Roger Bailey declared a personal interest as a trustee of CANS and therefore would not take part in the vote. He then gave a verbal report of the work achieved of the past year.

The Deputy Town Clerk clarified that the council grants £25,000 per year to CANS, as agreed by the previous administration's Committee Services Committee and CANS would provide the council with an overview and report. Members were requested to acknowledge that the budget be released as there was no SLA in place and was good practice. A copy of the accounts could be circulated to members on request.

PROPOSED BY: Councillor Peter McAleer

SECONDED BY: Councillor Peter Fox

A vote was taken and accordingly it was **carried**

RESOLVED: To approve payment to CANS for the year 2021/2022.

130 SNN4440 Request for Street Names, Planning Applications: 20/P/0792/FUL, 21/P/1560/NMA, 21/P/1791/NMA at a New Residential Site off Scot Elm Drive

Correspondence from NSC Street Naming department, suggesting proposed street names had been previously circulated.

The Developer had suggested the following street names: Burgess Grove, Old Yeo Drive and Five Acres.

A vote was taken and accordingly it was **carried:**

RECOMMENDED: That the council has no objection to the street names Burgess Grove, Old Yeo Drive and Five Acres for Planning Applications: 20/P/0792/FUL, 21/P/1560/NMA,

21/P/1791/NMA at a New Residential Site off Scot Elm Drive.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.48 pm.

Signed: Dated:

Chairman of the Community Services Committee