

**WESTON-SUPER- MARE TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY SERVICES WORKING PARTY
HELD VIA ZOOM
MONDAY 8TH NOVEMBER 2021**

Meeting Commenced: 7.00 pm

Meeting Concluded: 8.18 pm

PRESENT: Councillors Sarah Codling (Chairman), Roger Bailey, Ciaran Cronnelly, Peter Fox and Pete McAleer.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Malcom Nicholson (Town Clerk), Fay Powell (Assistant Town Clerk Public Services), Samantha Bishop (Committee Officer), Zoe Scott (Grounds Coordinator) Ali Waller (Youth Services) and Reece Evans (Community Response Officer).

198	<p>The Chairman announced that the meeting was inquorate and therefore items requiring a decision would be deferred.</p> <p>Apologies for Absence and Notification of Substitutions</p> <p>Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Roz Willis and Helen Thornton with no substitutions.</p> <p>It was noted that Councillor Ciaran Cronnelly would be late to the meeting.</p> <p>Councillor John Crockford-Hawley was absent from the meeting.</p>
199	<p>To receive Declarations of Interest</p> <p>There were no declarations of interest received.</p>
200	<p>References from other Committees:</p> <p>It was noted that there were none.</p>
201	<p>Grounds Management Report</p> <p>The report of the Assistant Town Clerk (Operational Services) had been previously circulated earlier that day and was available at the meeting.</p> <p>Public Toilets</p> <p>The team continue to work with Healthmatic across all of the toilet sites. The same ongoing issues were happening at Grove Park and the team were actively working with the Police, NSC and other agencies to address the issues, along with working on a proactive plan to improve the facility for the future.</p> <p>Cemetery</p> <p>There had been many interments and burials and funeral directors had been very complimentary about the cemetery. The team had been very busy over the past few months. The grass cutting season was coming to an end and so they would be compiling their winter work programme to include topple testing.</p>

The three newly recruited Community Rangers had fitted into the existing Grounds Team well. They had been supporting the existing team with ground works across all sites that would have been carried out by agency staff, this was an area where there was great difficulty in recruitment and retention through the agency used. Grounds work had also been carried out at the Quarry as interim care takers of the outdoor areas.

The whole of the grounds team had been working together to ensure the formal planting in Grove Park and Clarence Park was completed as well as supporting WIB in planting the features.

Allotments

The council continues to have a good working relationship with the Allotment Club and has had several site meetings, addressing a number of issues to include; a water leak, overgrown vegetation/trees and sites that have been subject to vandalism and theft.

Bus Shelters

The Community Rangers had produced a list of all the works needed for bus shelters, such as repairs and graffiti removal which would form part of the winter work programme. The council were working with NSC Highways to assist in the installation of a new bus stop on Locking Road.

Councillor Ciaran Cronnelly joined the meeting at 7.10 pm.

As the meeting was now quorate the Chairman said she would move on to the decision items.

It was noted that the toilet door at Uphill could not be locked.

In response to a point raised regarding the closure of the coin operated cubicle at Grove Park, the Grounds Coordinator explained that this was due to the door release button which had now been replaced 3times.

The Grounds Manager confirmed that the three new members of the team were working very well and that a fourth position was hoped to be filled with a kickstarter.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

202 To approve the accuracy of the minutes of the Community Service Working Party meeting held on 13th September 2021

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

It was noted that an amendment to page 6, minute number 128 'buy' was needed.

PROPOSED BY: Councillor Peter McAleer

SECONDED BY: Councillor Roger Bailey

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

RESOLVED: That with the above amendment, the minutes be approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record of the meeting.

203 Report from the Community Response Officer

Reece reported that:

A Community Protection Warning (WPA) had been served on a property in Alma Street.

There had been problems with gangs setting fires at the Campus, Worle. Ali advised linking up with the Healthy Living Centre as there had been similar problems with gangs experienced on the Bournville.

The 'Angela scheme' was looking at being launched at Weston's nighttime accommodation to try and tackle the drink spiking issues.

There were problems with tents pitching at the Emmanuel church and action would be taken.

4/5 tents over time had pitched on Ellenborough Park East and had been successfully moved on using the links a resources, which had resulted in £13k saving in legal costs. Somerset Wood Recycling were due to clear the park in order to help expose the site and tackle the issue.

The Grounds Manager reported the that the tools and powers that Reece had were an advantage to the council.

It was noted that Healthmatic were very helpful when tackling any antisocial behavior problems at toilet sites.

RESOLVED: That the verbal report be noted.

204 Service Area reports:

.1 Youth Services

The report of the Youth Worker lead had been previously circulated with the agenda.

Ali reported that a meeting place for Uphill had not yet been secured due to retention of staff throughout the pandemic and would be pursued as soon as able.

It was reported that Councillor Ella Sayce had resigned and therefore there was a vacancy on the Youth Council which would be reported to the next Town Council meeting on 22nd November.

RESOLVED: That the verbal report be noted.

.2 Community Events

The Grounds Coordinator reported that the Wellbeing Event held at Ellenborough Park East went well and thanks were given to the Theatre Manager for her support in managing the event in her absence due to sickness. The event attracted local residents and it was good to see a variety of generations enjoying the activities and the park. A meeting to discuss future events, sharing resources and collaborative working would be arranged in the near future and members' ideas on any initiatives/themes would be welcomed.

RESOLVED: That the verbal report be noted.

	<p>.3 Weston in Bloom</p> <p>The Grounds Coordinator reported that Weston In Bloom had been awarded ‘GOLD’. A meeting with the Judges and Chairman of Weston In Bloom had been held to discuss modernising WIB and taking it forward, establishing more sustainable projects and ‘pocket projects’. A meeting with the Volunteer Coordinator was due and a report would be brought back to a future meeting in time.</p> <p>It was noted that the Royal Horticultural Society were widening the categories and future proofing ‘In Bloom’. Weston in Bloom was already ticking a lot of the boxes which was an advantage for the following year.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the verbal report be noted.</p> <p>Councillor Gillian Carpenter’s apologies were noted at this point in the meeting.</p>
<p>205</p>	<p>To receive an update on Grove Park Public Toilets</p> <p>The Town Clerk reported that a meeting with NSC/Healthmatic/Police had taken place and the Police had been challenged on their response to the problems at Grove Park toilets. The option of relocating the toilets and the café to Grove House was discussed.</p> <p>A member who attended the meeting was disappointed with the outcome of the meeting and reported that the design of any new toilets and CCTV was paramount for discussions.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the verbal report be noted.</p>
<p>206</p>	<p>Community Resilience Update</p> <p>The Town Clerk reported that good work was continuing with the Food Clubs and the Community Fridge Project which was due its soft launch that week with a formal launch opened by the Mayor at the end of the month. The Anti-Racism Groups were operating well meeting once a month and the Museum had organised events during Black History Month.</p> <p>The Chairman requested a report on evaluation of progress against the Framework at the next meeting.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the verbal report be noted and a report on evaluation of progress against the Framework be reported at the next meeting.</p>
<p>207</p>	<p>Street Art Trail 2021 ‘Weston Walls’</p> <p>In the absence of the Deputy Town Clerk it was:</p> <p>RESOLVED: To defer an update on progress from the Deputy Town Clerk / Culture Weston following site visit with Upfest and Culture Weston.</p>

208 Grant applications

The reports of the Finance Officer had been previously circulated with the agenda. The remaining budget for small and voluntary grants was £6,050.

The remaining budget for Community Event Grants was £49,000.

.1 Weston PRIDE

Grant applied for £1,000

Under power: Local Government Act 1972 section 137

The purpose of the grant was for sound, lighting, entertainment, Santa and his Grotto for their festive event to be held at the Tropicana on December 21. A family event which was hoped to become an annual festive winter event.

PROPOSED BY: Councillor Ciaran Cronnelly

SECONDED BY: Councillor Peter McAleer

A vote was taken and was **carried**

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

.2 The Priory Learning Trust

Grant applied for £4,700

Under power: Local Government Act 1972 section 137

The purpose of the grant was seeking financial aid for the “Community Art Connected to a School” fund. The grant would be used to paint the underpasses that lead under the Queensway and Wansborough Road which were in a bad state of repair and covered in graffiti. The Priory Learning Trust had already commissioned a local artist and the theme of the artwork will be the natural world and nature.

Members requested clarity on what the “Community Art Connected to a School” fund was and were unsure of the purpose of the grant and that the project was retrospective. It should also be noted that the maximum grant award was £1000.

RESOLVED: That the grant be deferred pending clearer information.

.3 Worle Community Association

Grant applied for £1,000

Under power: Local Government Act 1972 section 137

The purpose of the grant was to upgrade the present temporary ramp between the two main halls of the community centre. The present arrangements were inadequate and did not meet current legal requirements. Approximately an average of 250 persons used the space on a weekly basis.

PROPOSED BY: Councillor Roger Bailey

SECONDED BY: Councillor Peter Fox

A vote was taken and was **carried**

RESOLVED: £1,000 be granted from the 2021/2022 small and voluntary grants budget.

.4 Wellspring Counselling

Grant applied for £1,000

Under power: Local Government Act 1972 section 137

The purpose of the grant was to sustain counselling sessions to people across North Somerset - In 2021, to date 270 clients, of which 35 were from Weston super Mare have been helped. There were currently 17 people from Weston super Mare whom were awaiting Counselling, some under the age of 18.

PROPOSED BY: Councillor Sarah Codling

SECONDED BY: Councillor Ciaran Cronnelly

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

RESOLVED: That £1,000 be granted from the 2021/2022 small and voluntary grants budget.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.18 pm.

Signed:

Dated:

Chairman of the Community Services Committee