

**WESTON-SUPER- MARE TOWN COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE  
HELD AT THE MUSEUM ON  
MONDAY 7<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2022**

**Meeting Commenced:** 7.00 pm

**Meeting Concluded:** 9.04 pm

**PRESENT:** Councillors Sarah Codling (Chairman), Roger Bailey, Gillian Carpenter, Ciaran Cronnelly, Dave Dash (S), Peter Fox, Jan Holloway (S), Pete McAleer and Clare Morris.

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:** Malcom Nicholson (Town Clerk), Sarah Pearse (Deputy Town Clerk), Fay Powell (Assistant Town Clerk Operational Services), Samantha Bishop (Committee Officer), Zoe Scott (Grounds Coordinator) and Deena Parker (The Notable Club).

The Chairman invited Deena Parker, fundraiser of the Notable Club to address the Committee and speak in support of the grant application to be discussed under item 11 of the agenda.

The Chairman thanked Deena for her address and welcomed her to stay for the meeting.

<b>336</b>	<b>Apologies for Absence and Notification of Substitutions</b>  Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Helen Thornton who was substituted by Dave Dash, Roz Willis who was substituted by Jan Holloway and John Crockford-Hawley with no substitution.
<b>337</b>	<b>To receive Declarations of Interest</b>  The Chairman declared a pecuniary interest in item 11 Grants as her employer had applied for a grant and she would leave the meeting whilst it was discussed.  Councillor McAleer declared a personal interest in item 11 Grants as a close friend was an applicant.  Councillor Fox declared a personal interest in item 11 Grants as he was a trustee of an organisation linked to a grant applicant.
<b>338</b>	<b>To approve the accuracy of the minutes of the Community Service Committee meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2022</b>  The minutes of the last meeting had been previously circulated with the agenda.  It was noted that amendments to page 1 were needed to reflect that it was a 'Committee' meeting and that Councillor John Crockford-Hawley was present at the meeting.  A member requested that it be recorded under minute no 283 that he strongly disagreed with the bag and tag scheme.  <b>PROPOSED BY:</b> Councillor Roger Bailey <b>SECONDED BY:</b> Councillor Pete Fox  A vote was taken and accordingly it was <b>carried</b> .

	<p><b>RESOLVED:</b> That with the above amendments, the minutes be approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record of the meeting.</p>
<b>339</b>	<p><b>References from other Committees:</b></p> <p>It was noted that there were none.</p>
<b>340</b>	<p><b>Grounds Management Report</b></p> <p>The report of the Assistant Town Clerk- Operational Services had been previously circulated.</p> <p>It was highlighted that the Cemetery had been hit hard by the recent storm and so repair and damage works were being undertaken.</p> <p>The Welcome Back Fund was progressing and a lead time on items was awaited. Due to general price increases the number of items purchased was less than desired.</p> <p>Two Kickstarters had started the previous week, who would be working across all areas with the hope to secure a permanent position at the end of the 6month programme.</p> <p>The Community Ranger programme was progressing well. Ward councillors had been met with and works undertaken on a ward by ward basis.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> That the report be noted.</p>
<b>341</b>	<p><b>Report from the Community Response Officer</b></p> <p>The Councils Community Response Officer (CRO) was not in attendance.</p> <p>The Chairman requested that a written report would be helpful in future.</p> <p>The Assistant Town Clerk - Operational Services reported that antisocial behavior had increased generally across the town and camping in Ellenborough Park East had occurred and been dealt with.</p> <p>The Water Park had suffered vandalism to the toilet block. The offenders had been identified and dealt with through the restorative justice system.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. That the verbal report be noted.</li> <li>2. That a written report be provided at future meetings.</li> </ol>
<b>342</b>	<p><b>Grove Park Public Toilets</b></p> <p>It was reported that Ashcombe Park and Clarence Park toilets had had to close earlier that day due to vandalism to the door mechanisms. It has hoped that these were one off incidents and that patrols in these areas would be increased to help target.</p> <p>The Assistant Town Clerk – Operational Services verbally updated the committee on the door entry systems. It was advised that there were still some issues to be ironed out before the doors could be converted to free entry as per the committee’s previous resolution. If</p>

the doors could not be converted, then the council would be partially refunded and the doors reused elsewhere.

The Town Clerk advised that members needed to decide whether or not to reopen Grove Park toilets in April, as per their previous resolution and reiterated the reasons why the decision to close them had been made. If the toilets were reopened, then then the council must be under no illusion that the vandalism might well continue and the financing of this would need to be authorised by the Policy & Finance Committee. A call log and safety concerns from the contractors had been received.

The budget overspend of £11,000 at month 10 was noted.

Debate ensued and the following points raised:

That until the wider and complex drug issue in the town was addressed then the toilets would continue to be vandalised at this location. The council needed to provide a safe and consistent toilet service to which Grove Park was not. The toilets situated at the Sovereign Centre and the seafront were in close proximity to signpost people to. The suggestion was made to open the toilets just for events.

In response to a question it was advised that CCTV was used on the outside of the toilets but could not be used on the inside for privacy as well as wi-fi reasons.

Some members argued that as a tourist town Weston should be able to provide a better toilet facility and that drugs and antisocial behavior should not be the reason to abandon this. It was suggested to increase street warden patrols and have them stationed at the redundant Grove Park café.

Members were advised that the café had been leased out to a concessionaire.

In further debate it was suggested to trial opening them for free, before a permanent decision was made. If the council could work with other agencies to provide a safe facility for drug users to deter them away from the site. This was considered a very complex and complicated issue.

A member reported that the site visit to Wells toilets had noted that they featured a timer/beeper which would be a good deterrent and should be considered. The main concern was the council's obligation to protect its staff and contractors as there had been incidents and assaults.

It was informed that the toilets were cleaned three times per day and the suggestion was made to ask the street wardens to supervise the cleans.

**PROPOSED BY:** Councillor Mc Aleer

**SECONDED BY:** Councillor Dave Dash

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

**RESOLVED:** To reopen the Grove Park toilets on a trial basis from 1<sup>st</sup> April until September 2022.

The Deputy Town Clerk advised that Grove Park toilets had not been included in the Council budget to fund conversion of the door mechanisms to free entry and that this would need to be recommended to town council to find the budget.

The Chairman wished to include a provision for the safety of staff and contactors.

The Assistant Town Clerk – Operational Services advised that a discussion with Healthmatic on the practicalities of this and their risk assessments was needed. Also a discussion with the BID on increasing street warden patrols and assistance.

**PROPOSED BY:** Councillor Pete Fox

**SECONDED BY:** Councillor Mc Aleer

A vote was taken and accordingly it was **carried.** (8 for; 1 against).

**RECOMENDED:** To recommend approval of the budget for the free door entry system at Grove Park toilets to the Town Council meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2022.

**343 Service Area reports:**

**.1 Youth Services**

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

It was noted that the next meeting of the Youth Council was to be held the following day and that a memorial tree planting had been arranged.

**RESOLVED:** That the report be noted.

**.2 Community Events**

The report of the Grounds Coordinator had been previously circulated which recommended a breakdown of the Community Events Budget for member's approval.

It was noted that the locations of the events were still to be decided and that Culture Weston used various locations for pop up events.

**PROPOSED BY:** Councillor Ciaran Cronnelly

**SECONDED BY:** Councillor Clare Morris

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

**RESOLVED:**

1. To approve the breakdown of the Community Events Budget as follows:
  - £1,500, Christmas Lights
  - £1,000, YMCA Youth Event
  - £2,500, Weston Literary Festival in conjunction with Culture Weston
  - £1,000, Wellbeing Event in Ellenborough Park West
2. To approve that the opportunity be presented to Culture Weston of a collaborative Literary Festival, to be led and managed by Culture Weston with support from Town Council Officers where possible and the budget of £2,500 towards the event.

### **.3 Weston in Bloom – Weston In Bloom Entry 2022**

The report of the Grounds Coordinator had been previously circulated which outlined recommendations for members' consideration.

The report proposed that Weston in Bloom does not enter the national competition of Britain in Bloom for the year 2022 to allow progress to be made in establishing a new structure, culture and resilience; and to adjust the Terms of Reference as required to fully reflect the changes outlined within the report:

The WIB Working Party is to consist of 3 councillors and up to 10 additional members from the volunteers and community groups.

The Town Clerk supported the recommendations.

It was noted that all seasonal planting would still take place and that the Horticultural Society's criteria had changed wanting to see more community engagement.

The Chairman of Weston in Bloom supported the recommendations, wanting to ensure that the town council does its best to maintain existing features and build its volunteer base.

**PROPOSED BY:** Councillor Roger Bailey

**SECONDED BY:** Councillor Peter Fox

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

#### **RESOLVED:**

1. That Weston in Bloom does not enter the national competition of Britain in Bloom for the year 2022 to allow progress to be made in establishing a new structure, culture and resilience.
2. To approve the proposed structure for In Bloom moving forwards.
3. To adjust the Terms of Reference as required to fully reflect the changes outlined within the report.

### **344 Community Resilience Update**

The report of the Communications Officer had been previously circulated.

**RESOLVED:** That the report be noted and item deferred for a further report to be submitted by the Deputy Town Clerk.

### **345 Street Art Trail 2021 'Weston Walls'**

The Deputy Town Clerk verbally reported that the feedback received was that there was a need to improve the publicity for the event and the trail locations.

NSC had pledged £40,000 toward the event which gave a total budget of £80,000.

Upfest would assume the management and marketing of the event but the town council could suggest themes for inclusion, which needed to be more fluid.

During the first week of August there would be a launch event and the trail hoped to include the Premier Inn which would attract Big Artists.

It was advised that the walls for the trail were chosen by Upfest and then direct approaches to landlords had been made.

An Anti-War theme suggestion was made by a member and received support.

**RESOLVED:** That the verbal report be noted and that the theme of anti-war be suggested for inclusion to Upfest.

**346 Grant applications**

*The Chairman, Councillor Sarah Codling left the meeting at 8.30 pm.*

Councillor Pete McAleer chaired the meeting in her absence.

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

The remaining budget for small and voluntary grants was £3,050.

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

**.1 The Steepholmers Shanty Band (event)**

**Grant applied for £2,000**

**Under power: Local Government Act 1972 section 137**

The Steepholmers Shanty Band were seeking financial support of £2,000 for upfront costs to put on a 3day festival.

**PROPOSED BY:** Councillor Roger Bailey

**SECONDED BY:** Councillor Pete Fox

A vote was taken and was **carried**

**RESOLVED:** That the grant be deferred and the applicant asked to reapply for funds through the Community Events Grants budget.

**.2 The Notable Club**

**Grant applied for £1,000**

**Under power: Local Government Act 1972 section 137**

The Notable Club was seeking financial aid of £1,000 to help with the cost of weekly specialist transport.

**PROPOSED BY:** Councillor Pete Fox

**SECONDED BY:** Councillor Jan Holloway

A vote was taken and was **carried**

**RESOLVED:** That the Notable Club be granted £1,000 from the 2021/22 small and voluntary grants budget.

**.3 Red 1 Response - Emergency Response Charity**

**Grant applied for £ 1445.00**

**Under power: Local Government Act 1972 section 137**

Red 1 Response Emergency Response Charity were seeking financial assistance of £1445.00 for an Automated External Defibrillator and an ILS- Level medical kit.

Concern was raised over the registration of charity status and so it was

**PROPOSED BY:** Councillor Jan Holloway

**SECONDED BY:** Councillor Gillian Carpenter

A vote was taken and was **carried**

**RESOLVED:** That the applicant be recommended to reapply in the new financial year 2022/23 once charity status was obtained.

#### **.4 North Somerset People First**

**Grant applied for £987**

**Under power: Local Government Act 1972 section 137**

North Somerset People First were seeking financial aid of £987 to help fund the first NSP fundraising dinner and dance event to mark the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the charity.

**PROPOSED BY:** Councillor Roger Bailey

**SECONDED BY:** Councillor Pete Fox

A vote was taken and was **carried**

**RESOLVED:** That North Somerset People First be granted £987 from the 2021/22 small and voluntary grants budget.

*Councillor Sarah Codling re-joined the meeting at 8.50 pm and resumed her place as Chairman of the meeting.*

#### **347 Somewhere to Go – Funding for 2021 / 2022 financial year**

The request for funding and confirmation of expenses document for Somewhere to Go had been previously circulated.

Members were requested to consider the application to release budget allocated funds within the current financial year.

It was advised that the funds would be spent on providing a day shelter facility for the foreseeable future, as post-pandemic a night shelter was no longer logistically feasible. The opening hours of Somewhere to Go had been extended until 6 pm.

The Town Clerk clarified that the funds for 2022/23 budget would need to be approved by Town Council and the specifics for how the money would be spent would need to be clarified with Somewhere to Go.

It was questioned why the belongings and bedding collected as part of the new bag & tag scheme could not be taken to Somewhere to Go rather than to the Town Hall.

The Assistant Town Clerk – Operational Services agreed that this could be a practical solution and would commence talks with NSC and Somewhere to Go on this possibility.

Members requested that it would be helpful in the future to receive some outcomes and data on how many people had been helped off the streets by Somewhere to Go.

**PROPOSED BY:** Councillor Sarah Codling

**SECONDED BY:** Councillor Dave Dash

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

**RESOLVED:** To release the budget allocated funds within the current financial year to Somewhere to Go.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.04 pm.

Signed: .....

Dated: .....

**Chairman of the Community Services Committee**