

**WESTON-SUPER- MARE TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE
HELD AT THE MUSEUM ON
MONDAY 4th JULY 2022**

Meeting Commenced: 7:03 pm

Meeting Concluded: 8:40 pm

PRESENT: Councillors Sarah Codling, Roger Bailey, Peter Fox, John Crockford-Hawley, James Clayton, Pete McAleer and Helen Thornton.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Malcom Nicholson (Town Clerk), Sarah Pearse (Deputy Town Clerk), Fay Powell (Assistant Town Clerk Operational Services), Molly Maher (Senior Development Officer) and Dave Eastman (Community Response Officer).

65	<p>Election of Chairman</p> <p>Nominations for the position of Chairman were invited.</p> <p>PROPOSED BY: Councillor Helen Thornton SECONDED BY: Councillor Pete McAleer</p> <p>That Councillor James Clayton be elected as Chairman.</p> <p>A counter proposal was received</p> <p>PROPOSED BY: Councillor Bailey SECONDED BY: Councillor Fox</p> <p>That Councillor Sarah Codling be elected as Chairman.</p> <p>A straight vote was taken and carried, and accordingly it was: <i>4 for Councillor James Clayton; 2 for Councillor Sarah Codling; 1 abstention.</i></p> <p>RESOLVED: That Councillor James Clayton be elected Chairman of the Community Services Committee for the year 2022-23.</p> <p>The Chairman thanked Councillor Sarah Codling for having been the Chairman for the previous year and gave thanks to the committee in his absence during his Mayoral year.</p>
66	<p>Apologies for Absence and Notification of Substitutions</p> <p>Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Roz Willis.</p>
67	<p>Election of Vice Chairman</p> <p>Nominations for the position of Vice Chairman were invited.</p> <p>Councillor Sarah Codling was asked if she would accept the position, to which she declined. It was then:</p> <p>PROPOSED BY: Councillor Helen Thornton SECONDED BY: Councillor Peter Fox</p>

	<p>A vote was taken and carried, and accordingly it was:</p> <p>RESOLVED: That Councillor Roger Bailey be elected Vice Chairman of the Community Services Committee for the year 2022-23.</p>
68	<p>To receive Declarations of Interest</p> <p>There were none.</p>
69	<p>To approve the accuracy of the minutes of the Community Service Committee meeting held on 6th May 2022</p> <p>The minutes of the last meeting had been previously circulated with the agenda.</p> <p>Under the minute 428 regarding Street Art Trail 'Weston Walls', the year had been incorrectly noted as 2021 instead of 2022.</p> <p>PROPOSED BY: Councillor Roger Bailey SECONDED BY: Councillor Sarah Codling</p> <p>A vote was taken and accordingly it was carried.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That with the above amendment, the minutes be approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record of the meeting.</p>
70	<p>References from other Committees:</p> <p>It was noted that there were none.</p>
71	<p>Grounds Management Report</p> <p>The report of the Assistant Town Clerk (Operational Services) was previously circulated.</p> <p>Public Toilets Grove Park Toilets were still open, whilst Ashcombe Park Toilets were still closed due to vandalism. The amount of damage to the locking mechanism, door and windows made it impractical to repair before the installation of the new doors which was due to happen imminently. It was asked when Grove Park toilets would close after the summer period. It was explained that a review would take place at the end of the summer. If they had not been vandalised members may wish to reconsider only opening in the summer months.</p> <p>A new Grounds Manager had been appointed and was due to start on the 1st August. He had come from a grounds background, with experience in managing parks and cemeteries, and worked previously for the War Graves Commission.</p> <p>It was asked if the trap cameras were still being used in the cemetery and if the footage was being shared with the public. In reply the committee was informed that they had been used for conservation purposes, but there were concerns about making the amount of wild life public knowledge, as this may increase footfall and negatively impact on the wild life. Areas of rewilding in the cemetery had attracted deer from Weston Woods.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the report be noted.</p>

<p>72</p>	<p>Report from the Community Response Officers</p> <p>The report had been previously circulated with the agenda.</p> <p>Members noted that Alexandra Parade had improved since the redesign, attracting less anti-social behavior, now the layout was more open.</p> <p>Members asked for clarification about street drinking outside Weston Museum. It was reported that there had been instances opposite the Museum, which had been causing issues for local businesses. The Street Wardens were in contact with the businesses and dealing directly with them. Whilst they could move people on, this would not solve the problem, it would just displace it.</p> <p>Members were informed that North Somerset Council had a statutory obligation to house everyone. Many members of the street community did not want to be housed or could not sustain housing. There was a day centre at Somewhere To Go. A report would be going to Town Council to decide on financial support for the organisation. Many people were sleeping in churches and shop doorways. North Somerset Council could remove sleeping bags and other possessions and take them to the Town Hall. Wardens and officers tried not to implement this too much, as it was felt they needed to be mindful and treat people sensitively and fairly. A 3-hour notice was given before you could remove anything. Members asked if there was anywhere in Weston you could legally camp for free. The new Public Space Protection Orders meant that you could not erect a tent in a public park. There had been issues in Weston Woods, with damage having been done to Worlebury Hillfort.</p> <p>Members queried the lack of report regarding the wider town, with the noticeable omission of Worle and South Ward. Members were informed that a report had been submitted.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the report be noted.</p> <p><i>Dave Eastman left the meeting at 7:42 pm.</i></p>
<p>73</p>	<p>Service Area reports:</p> <p>.1 Youth Services</p> <p>The report of the Youth Worker lead had been previously circulated with the agenda.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the report be noted.</p> <p>.2 Community Events</p> <p>The Assistant Town Clerk (Operational Services) reported that the Grounds Coordinator was now working part time Wednesday-Friday. Culture Weston would be arranging a Literary Festival, which the Town Council would be looking to get involved with.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the verbal report be noted.</p> <p>.3 Weston in Bloom</p> <p>A meeting had taken place amongst officers, including the Assistant Town Clerk (Operational Services) and the Grounds Coordinator, as well as the Volunteer Coordinator and the Deputy Town Clerk and Senior Development Officer who formed part of the Community Response Team and had experience with asset based Community</p>

	<p>Development Projects. It was explained that it was difficult to engage volunteers and that In Bloom needed to be formed out in the community with less Council intervention. The structure of In Bloom would be assessed and an alternative approach formed. More information would come back to future meetings. The Council would not be entering the national In Bloom competition this year. Members suggested reaching out to Alliance Homes about this as they had their own growing projects on allotment sites.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the verbal report be noted.</p>
74	<p>Community Resilience Update</p> <p>The report of the Senior Development Officer had been previously circulated with the agenda.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the agenda item be deferred until the next meeting, as there were no paper copies of the report available.</p>
75	<p>Street Art Trail 2022 'Weston Walls'</p> <p>An update report had been given at the Heritage Arts and Culture Committee the previous week. There had been 20 confirmed artists, with the headline artist being Insane 51. 12 walls had been signed up to date. Work was due to start the 23rd July and would be completed by the 31st July. Leaflets and digital maps were being created, and there were still walls to be confirmed.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the verbal report be noted.</p>
76	<p>Grant applications</p> <p>The reports of the Finance Officer had been previously circulated with the agenda.</p> <p>The remaining budget for small and voluntary grants was £11,500.</p> <p>Great Western Ambulance Charity Grant applied for £1,000 Under power: Local Government Act 1972 section 137</p> <p>Great Western Air Ambulance was a registered charity and they were seeking financial assistance of £1000. The charity provided lifesaving care to the 2.1 Million people across North Somerset, Banes, Bristol and Gloucestershire. GWAAC have attended 38 critically ill or injured patients in Weston-super-Mare already this year and last year in North Somerset 251 missions were undertaken. The monies would cover half of one life saving mission and some of the costs incurred on a daily basis such as medical equipment, fuel costs and other running and support costs.</p> <p>PROPOSED BY: Councillor Sarah Codling SECONDED BY: Councillor Peter Fox</p> <p>A vote was taken and was carried</p> <p>RESOLVED: That £1,000 be granted from the 2022/2023 small and voluntary grants budget and paid to Great Western Ambulance Charity.</p>

North Somerset British Bangladeshi Association
Grant applied for £1,000
Under power: Local Government Act 1972 section 137

North Somerset British Bangladeshi Association was an organisation which worked in the interest of their community including their social welfare and to improve their life conditions. They were seeking financial assistance of £1000. The purpose of the grant was to help local British born Bangladeshi children to learn the Bengali language, reading, writing and to preserve the Bengali heritage. The grant would benefit approximately 125 people in Weston-super-Mare.

Members noted that it was unclear what the grant would fund and that if it were for an event it should be aimed at the events grant budget instead.

PROPOSED BY: Councillor Roger Bailey

SECONDED BY: Councillor Peter Fox

A vote was taken and was **carried**

RESOLVED: To request more information as to exactly what the grant would fund from the North Somerset British Bangladeshi Association before making a decision.

The Brightwell (West of England MS Therapy Centre)
Grant applied for £1,000
Under power: Local Government Act 1972 section 137

The Brightwell (West of England MS Therapy Centre) were a registered charity based in Bristol who were seeking financial assistance of £1000. The charity currently provided treatments and therapies to people living with Multiple Sclerosis and all other neurological conditions. Currently 8 of the current 270 members (3%) lived in Weston-super-Mare and would benefit directly from this activity. The specific purpose for which the grant was sought for was to be able to continue providing therapeutic services to people with long-term neurological conditions.

Members were concerned that the grant requested would only support 8 people from Weston-super-Mare and felt that the purpose of the funding was not to replace support that should be coming from state funding. Also that this organisation was much larger than those the fund was aimed at and perhaps the criteria should be adjusted. Members were advised that there were criteria to this effect, which stated that the group applying for a grant must be based in, or serve a significant proportion of, the residents of Weston.

PROPOSED BY: Councillor Peter Fox

SECONDED BY: Councillor Roger Bailey

To award £800.00.

A vote was taken and **lost** 3 for; 3 against.

PROPOSED BY: Councillor Roger Bailey

SECONDED BY: Councillor Sarah Codling

A vote was taken and was **carried**

	<p>RESOLVED: That £500 be granted from the 2022/2023 small and voluntary grants budget and paid to The Brightwell (West of England MS Therapy Centre).</p> <p>YMCA Dulverton Group Grant applied for £500 Under power: Local Government Act 1972 section 137</p> <p>YMCA Dulverton Group was a youth club for young people aged 10-18 years old. They were seeking financial assistance to buy a new pool table which had been damaged. Over 300 young people used the youth centre which could be accessed by all three designated areas (Bournville, Coronation and The Oldmixon).</p> <p>Members felt the grant should be redirected to the Youth Council Grant Scheme.</p> <p>PROPOSED BY: Councillor Sarah Codling SECONDED BY: Councillor Roger Bailey</p> <p>A vote was taken and was carried</p> <p>RESOLVED: To recommend that the Youth Council approve the grant.</p>
	<p>There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8:40 pm.</p> <p>Signed: Dated:</p> <p>Chairman of the Community Services Committee</p>