



**WESTON-SUPER-MARE TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE AMENITIES, CULTURE AND LEISURE COMMITTEE
HELD AT 32 WATERLOO STREET ON
MONDAY 9th SEPTEMBER 2024**

Meeting Commenced: 7.00 pm

Meeting Concluded: 8.28 pm

PRESENT: Councillors Simon Harrison-Morse (C), Roger Bailey, Gillian Bute (S), Annabelle Chard, Jemma Coles, Catherine Gibbons, Robert Payne (S), Robert Skeen and John Standfield.

ALSO, IN ATTENDANCE: Sarah Pearse (Town Clerk/CEO), Fay Powell (Director of Community Services/Deputy Town Clerk), Samantha Bishop (Democratic Services Manager) and Joanne Cridge-Drinkwater, (Placemaking Project Manager, North Somerset Council).

<p>Apologies for Absence and Notification of Substitutes</p> <p>Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Ray Armstrong who was substituted by Robert Payne and Peter Crew who was substituted by Gillian Bute.</p>
<p>Declarations of Interest</p> <p>There were no declarations of interest received.</p>
<p>To agree the accuracy of the previous Amenities, Culture and Leisure Committee Minutes held on 1st July 2024</p> <p>The minutes of the Amenities Culture and Leisure Committee held on the 1st July had been previously circulated.</p> <p>It was noted that minute number 54 needed to be changed to reflect that Councillor John Crockford-Hawley was not in attendance in a substitute capacity, but in an ex officio capacity as, stated further on in the minutes.</p> <p>PROPOSED BY: Councillor Jemma Coles SECONDED BY: Councillor Annabelle Chard</p> <p>A vote was taken and carried. Accordingly.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That with the above amendment, the Minutes of the Amenities Culture and Leisure Committee be signed and approved.</p>

AMENITIES

Grove Park Toilets Update

Presentation by Joanne Cridge-Drinkwater, Placemaking Project Manager, North Somerset Council.

The presentation informed that Grove Park was Project 3: 'Connecting spaces and place' of 6 government funded projects and the relocation and redesign of the new Grove Park toilets was part of the project. The designs of the new toilets were in the technical design phase and all diagrams included were being submitted to planning in the next few weeks.

The site relocation was considered very open and visual, having a prominent position in the park, in direct view of CCTV. In the past the shrubbery area had attracted anti-social behaviour (ASB). The proposed plans were looking to remove this and replace with a rainwater garden and an additional accessible path would also be included. Compostable toilets had been considered but the plans had reverted to normal flushing toilets.

The proposed Grove Park concept entrance designs were also viewed, which considered site lines.

A question and answer session then took place.

In response to questions raised, Joanne informed that the construction phase of the project was due in early 2025. In response to a query, the proposed design of a baby change facility occupying a standard toilet, rather than an additional toilet, was probably due to budget consideration.

Members queried what provisions had been considered about the safety of the toilets from antisocial Behaviour (ASB) and were informed that the proposed design was thought to be almost vandal proof. Members disagreed with this statement, due to its experience of managing the former toilets. Much work had been undertaken by the town council to combat the ASB issues and site visits to other council run public toilets were undertaken. It was highlighted that Wells City Council ran their toilets on a brilliant model, details of which could be shared with NSC, via the Town Clerk post meeting.

Members were aggrieved that they had not been consulted on the design before now, as the council who would be managing the new toilets.

The Director of Community Services reported that she had attended site visits where the town councils concern on ASB and CCTV were represented. Also, a presentation was given at the former Community Services Committee on the initial compostable toilet option. The modular designs were very basic and functional. However, the site location was one of the factors behind the historic vandalism. The new open location covered by CCTV should help to deter this.

It was noted that the wayfinding signs were not adequate and the totem poles were no longer serving their purpose, however the finger posts would remain.

The following concerns were noted; the use of timber materials and their lifespan; the timescales associated with the café concession lease, which should be

considered in tandem with the new toilets; the size of the proposed toilets were too small and should include more cubicles and lockable toilets should be explored

The Town Clerk summarised that as the Town Council was responsible for maintaining the toilets, it should be fully apprised of its design to consider liability insurance and the Committee's comments would be submitted to North Somerset Council.

The Chair thanked Joanne for her presentation and attending the meeting and she *left the meeting at 7.38pm.*

To agree a date for the 2025 Christmas Lights, Switch on Event

The report of the Town Clerk had been previously circulated which advised that in 2023, the Christmas Lights Switch on Event was combined with the Eat Festival in order to maximise the attendance to the switch on ceremony and boost the footfall to the town centre. The event takes place in the Italian Gardens and also in the Winter Gardens to ensure that there is a wet weather plan in place should the weather be inclement.

The council has appointed a new Christmas lights contractor for 2024 and the event for 2024 is scheduled to take place: 23rd November 2024. The event will follow the same format working with Eat Festival for the occasion. Final detail for the Christmas lights designs and areas covered were approved by the council's Finance and General Purposes committee on 19th August 2024. At this meeting, there was also a proposal from the organisers at Eat Festival to secure the date for the 2025 event in order to book the venues. It was therefore resolved:

RESOLUTION (Extract):

1. To approve the date of the 15th November for the 2025 switch on event contained in (1.2).
2. To defer the request from EAT organisers for a long-term arrangement in line with the Christmas Lights Contract noting current costs.

Since the meeting of Finance and General Purposes on the 19th August 2024, the organisers of Eat Festival have been advised that the date of the 15th November 2025 is no longer available for the Winter Gardens, therefore the council will need to consider an alternative date for the Switch on Ceremony for the event in 2025.

Members agreed that any date later than the 15th November was too late and it was suggested if another wet weather plan/option could be secured in the Sovereign for the 15th November. The 8th November was the same weekend as the Carnival and it was considered inappropriate having a Christmas event before Remembrance.

PROPOSED BY: Councillor Robert Payne

SECONDED BY: Councillor Catherine Gibbons

A vote was taken and **carried unanimously.** Accordingly.

RESOLVED: - To agree the date of the 15th November 2025 for the Christmas Lights Switch on event, noting that a wet weather plan would need to be secured.

Big Worle – Commission of Services within the Town Council’s role as Local Trusted Organisation

The report of the Community Wellbeing Officer had been previously circulated.

The report informed that the Town Council were the locally trusted organisation for Big Worle, who had 5 priority areas where they could spend their money. One of these was to develop an art-based legacy project with members of Young people in Worle. Super Culture was approached by a Local Trust to come up with a project proposal for the youth engagement piece of work. The Big Worle Steering group members met on 08/07/2024 and all agreed that Super Culture should take a lead on the priority area. Big Worle had assigned £38,000 for the project and Super Culture would work with a cohort of 10 11-16-year olds sourced from 2 local secondary schools on a 12-month programme of talent development, creative activities and wider community consultation that results in a legacy commission for Worle. The programme was a commission by Big Worle and would run from September 2024 to August 2025 (with no option for extension).

PROPOSED BY: Councillor Roger Bailey

SECONDED BY: Councillor Catherine Gibbons

A vote was taken and **carried**. Accordingly.

RESOLVED: To approve use of Big Worle Funding, totalling £38,000, to be awarded to Super Culture under specialist works (as per financial regulation 6.7), recognising the need to comply with Town Council Standing orders and Financial Regulations as their Local Trusted Organisation.

Cleaner Streets

The Director of Community Services verbally reported that the working group had met twice, with a third planned for the end of month. There had been interest from community groups still and the was concept continuing well.

It was confirmed that the council had information on the North Somerset Council ‘Neater Streets’ imitative.

A member informed of a discussion on social media regarding overgrowing weeds suggesting that residents should be responsible for maintaining their own homes.

The Chair advised that this was not the remit of the Cleaner Streets working group, however the Director of Community Services would liaise with North Somerset Council on pushing the concept forward.

It was noted that the sprays now used to target weeds were not as strong as they used to be and that the intermittent weather was also a factor with weeds growing rapidly.

RESOLVED: That the verbal report be received.

Direction and set up for the following:

.1 Allotments Community Consultative Group (quarterly meetings – note 1st one scheduled for Oct TBA)

As a result of changes to Committee structure, an Allotments Community Consultative Group meeting needed to be scheduled. This would consist of three cross party members (as previously agreed), noting that there was still a Liberal Democrat vacancy to be filled and a maximum of five Allotment Club representatives.

Initial direction of the meetings needed to pick up where the former Allotment Management Sub Committee left off and introduce some governance around allotment management.

RESOLVED: Some dates for week commencing the 7th October would be circulated to the group to agree a date.

LEISURE

To Review the Play Strategy

The report of the Director of Community Services had been previously circulated which provided members with a status update for the councils play strategy.

Noting the resolution of the Tourism and Leisure Committee, it was felt that play provision had moved on and play requirements and needs had developed. Therefore, a strategy to better understand this would give a guide to the council when producing a schedule of works across its 23 play areas for 2025/2026.

A programme for interim works has been devised with a local Play Inspector and the councils ROSPA RPII (Register of Play Inspectors International) qualified Grounds Manager, to prioritise works across all sites and ensure the councils meets its statutory requirements.

It was reported that recent meetings had been held with the Police regarding antisocial behaviour (ASB) at Millennium Green. It was advised that a mobile CCTV camera was in situ there which would be discussed under the next agenda item.

Members queried the timescales involved and conveyed their disappointment with examples such as Ellenborough Park East swings.

The Chair advised that there had been delays in repairs due to resource and that the council were looking at appointing an external consultant going forward to address this.

The Town Clerk elaborated that the council was trying its best to catch up from not having adequate staff resources, noting that 11 parks were taken over from NSC in a substandard state. Work needed to be undertaken on how the council can develop play, recognising its allocated budgets. It was planned that a consultant would be appointed ready for April 2025.

It was requested that consideration be given to older children's equipment.

PROPOSED BY: Councillor Caroline Reynolds

SECONDED BY: Councillor Annabelle Chard

A vote was taken and **carried**. Accordingly.

RESOLVED: To note the report and delegate authority to appoint the necessary contractor to produce a Play Strategy to the CEO/Town Clerk in liaison with the Chair of the Amenities, Culture and Leisure Committee to avoid further

	<p>delays and inclusion of any recommendations in the budget setting process.</p>
	<p>CCTV Provision at Millennium Green</p> <p>The Director of Community Services reported that there had been severe antisocial behaviour (ASB) experienced at Millennium Green, which was being tackled by multiagency working. Equipment was being instantly destroyed and if the problem persists then it will need to be escalated.</p> <p>A mobile camera was currently in situ which had captured lots of useful footage and there was some funding available from NSC Community Safety Team.</p> <p>Reports of unpleasant activity and intimidation at the site were received from members and it was noted that the dog bin would be replaced on site.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the verbal report be received.</p>
	<p>Update on the Waterpark Refurbishment 2024 The report of the Director of Community Services had been previously circulated.</p> <p>11.1 Update on start dates</p> <p>A site meeting had taken place at the Waterpark with the contractors and confirmation had been received that works by Proludic would take place week commencing Monday 23rd September 2024. They were estimated to last 12 weeks which would be weather dependant. Communications with Proludic’s site manager and area manager for the South West overseeing the works had been forthcoming with regular updates.</p> <p>11.2 To choose floor design Proludic had offered to create a permanent floor design onto the driveway of the Waterpark (next to the VIC cabin) whilst they were on site. As indicated within the report, there were 4 design options to choose from.</p> <p>Members favoured design option 4 a map and made amendment suggestions to include; Just ‘Splash pad’ and ‘Blue Whale’.</p> <p>The durability of the design was also questioned, to which it was advised that this should last 10years.</p> <p>PROPOSED BY: Councillor John Standfield SECONDED BY: Councillor Robert Skeen</p> <p>A vote was taken and carried. Accordingly.</p> <p>RESOLVED: To delegate the responsibility of finalising the floor design details to the Director of Community Services.</p>
	<p>CULTURE</p> <p>Direction and set up for the following:</p>

12.1 Heritage and Culture Consultative Group (quarterly meetings)
As a result of changes to Committee structure, a Heritage and Culture Consultative Group meeting needed to be scheduled. This would consist of three cross party members (as previously agreed).

RESOLVED: That some dates in October would be sent out to members to schedule a meeting.

12.2 Old Town Quarry Start and Finish Group
As a result of changes to Committee structure, an Old Town Quarry Start and Finish Group meeting needed to be scheduled. This would consist of seven cross party members (as previously agreed).

The role of the group was to oversee the implementation of the COF grant funding to include the capital refurbishment programme.

RESOLVED: That some dates in September would be sent out to members to schedule a meeting.

There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting at 8.28 pm

Signed.....Dated

Chair of the Amenities, Culture and Leisure Committee