



**WESTON-SUPER-MARE TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE AMENITIES, CULTURE AND LEISURE COMMITTEE
HELD AT 32 WATERLOO STREET ON
MONDAY 4TH NOVEMBER 2024**

Meeting Commenced: 7.00 pm

Meeting Concluded: 7.58 pm

PRESENT: Councillors Simon Harrison-Morse (C), Ray Armstrong, Roger Bailey, Peter Crew, Caroline Reynolds, Robert Skeen and John Standfield.

ALSO, IN ATTENDANCE: Fay Powell (Director of Community Services/Deputy Town Clerk) and Samantha Bishop (Democratic Services Manager).

176	<p>Apologies for Absence and Notification of Substitutes</p> <p>Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Jemma Coles and Catherine Gibbons with no substitutions.</p> <p>It was noted that Councillor Annabelle Chard was absent from the meeting.</p>
177	<p>Declarations of Interest</p> <p>Councillors Roger Bailey and Robert Skeen declared personal interests as allotment plot holders.</p>
178	<p>To agree the accuracy of the previous Amenities, Culture and Leisure Committee Minutes held on 9th September 2024</p> <p>The minutes of the Amenities Culture and Leisure Committee held on the 9th September had been previously circulated.</p> <p>It was noted that Councillor Caroline Reynolds was present at the meeting.</p> <p>PROPOSED BY: Councillor Roger Bailey SECONDED BY: Councillor Robert Skeen</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>

179 Budget Considerations for the Year 2025/2026

This was a standard item on all committees and an opportunity for members to propose budget items (if any) for consideration.

PROPOSED BY: Councillor Peter Crew

SECONDED BY: Councillor Roger Bailey

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

.1 RESOLVED: - To recommended that the Tourism budget should not be affected due to the importance and effects on economic development of the town.

Budget Proposal from Councillor Roger Bailey

A detailed proposal was circulated to members at the meeting, which in summary proposed that the Town Council consider a suggested match funding amount of £10,000 to fund the provision of accessible allotment plots.

Councillor Bailey added that an area of land had been identified at the Rectors Way allotment site which would provide plots for up to 8 persons with both physical and mental disabilities.

It was noted that £1,000 had since been granted from the Town Council's Small and Voluntary Grants budget which amounted to £6,500 raised in funding. It was suggested that the Council match fund this with £5,000 increments over 2 years, to be monitored by the council.

The Deputy Town Clerk advised that the expenditure for the £10,000 would need to be specified and procured, according to council policy.

It was suggested that local garden suppliers/merchants may be interested in supporting the initiative which was considered an extra avenue of funding.

It was highlighted that the initiative would need to be replicated at all sites in time and that this would be a pilot scheme with room to progress.

To aid discussion, it was clarified that the allotments income was collected by the Allotment Club and used to maintain the sites. The town Council had a statutory duty to identify and provide land for the provision on allotments only. It was therefore suggested that the Allotment Club should increase their rents as this may help with funding and maintenance of their sites going forward.

It was therefore

PROPOSED BY: Councillor Roger Bailey

SECONDED BY: Councillor Caroline Reynolds

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

RESOLVED: - To recommend that the council match funds to the value of £10,000 (£5,000 over 2 years), to fund the provision of an area for accessible allotments.

AMENITIES

180 Christmas Lights Costs and Refurbishment Update

The Deputy Town Clerk gave a verbal update informing that costs had significantly increased from the initial quote at and that the extra expenditure will be funded from the environmental budget.

Description	Value	Allocated Budget
Blachere Contract (4 years per year cost)	£38,000	Xmas Lights Budget
EICR Testing (Year 1 costs)	£2,800	PPM
Supply and infrastructure replacements / rewiring to allow Environmentally approved design install (Year 1 Cost)	£20,000 (max)	Environmental Budget

Whilst every effort had been made to achieve, unfortunately due to timescale restrictions, the Meadow Street lights could not be installed this year. Contactors would work on them post-Christmas, to have in place for next year. This would need to be communicated effectively in order to limit disappointment to retailers and the council would support them through Visit Weston advertising. It was noted that communications were yet to be released on this.

Concerns were raised regarding public liability insurance implications, to which the Deputy Town Clerk informed this would be covered by the contractors.

RESOLVED: - That the update be received.

181 Grove Park Toilets

The Deputy Town Clerk gave a verbal update informing that a site visit by members and officers was undertaken and a letter advising of the town council's concerns was submitted to North Somerset Council, with no response yet received.

It was noted that the planning application was on the next Planning and Environment Committee Agenda (13November) for comment and plans were available on North Somerset Council's website to view.

The Chair advised that he was happy for the letter to be shared with members of the Committee and to be viewed by members of the Planning and Environment Committee in order to aid their comments.

It was suggested that the application should be called in by dual hatted ward members.

The Deputy Town Clerk informed that she would be happy to attend the Planning and Environment Committee meeting.

It was noted that the concessionaire in the park had not been consulted with either.

RESOLVED: - That the update be received.

<p>182</p>	<p>Visit Weston Website renewal due 31.03.25</p> <p>The report of the Director of Community Services/Deputy Town Clerk had been previously circulated that the contract for the Visit Weston website with Simple View was set to expire on 31st March 2025, which will need to be renewed to ensure the website remained operational.</p> <p>PROPOSED BY: Councillor Peter Crew SECONDED BY: Councillor John Standfield</p> <p>A vote was taken and carried. Accordingly.</p> <p>RESOLVED: - To allow the extension of the contract with the current provider for an additional year, enabling the Information and Visitor Services Manager to thoroughly assess the requirements needed before initiating the procurement process in 2026/2027</p>
<p>183</p>	<p>CULTURE</p> <p>Old Town Quarry</p> <p>.1 To receive the Notes of the Old Town Quarry Start and Finish Group held on the 24th September 2024</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the notes be received.</p> <p>.2 Project Extension</p> <p>The report of the Project Manager and Senior Development Officer had been previously circulated, which was seeking approval for the application of an extension beyond the 20th December 2024 deadline, and change in original budget allocation.</p> <p>PROPOSED BY: Councillor Peter Crew SECONDED BY: Councillor Caroline Reynolds</p> <p>A vote was taken and carried. Accordingly.</p> <p>RESOLVED: - To approve the application for a project extension.</p>
<p>184</p>	<p>To note the meeting date of the Heritage and Culture Consultative Group as the 7th November 2024</p> <p>RESOLVED: - Noted.</p>
<p>185</p>	<p><u>LEISURE</u></p> <p>Play Strategy</p> <p>The covering report of the Director of Community Services/Deputy Town Clerk notifying of the consultant appointment and Play Strategy timeline had been previously circulated.</p> <p>The Deputy Town Clerk added that the name of the consultant was 'Sports and Play Consulting'</p>

It was noted that various letters and attempts had been made to North Somerset Council over 2.5yrs to take the West Wick Play area over and it was requested that the council should take the opportunity address this again.

Discussion ensued as there may be other play areas that could be included in the strategy, considering the devolution from North Somerset Council and it was advised that there would be cost implications associated with this.

It was agreed that facilities should be provided for older young people aged between 14-18 and to undertake consultations on site.

It was noted that Big Worle had recognised there was a need for this type of provision at Castle Batch within their local plan and had allocated budget for development of a Green gym.

Jubilee Park was another identified area for older youth provision.

It was noted that a Play Strategy Presentation would be given to the Committee at a later date.

RESOLVED:

1. That the report be received.
2. That a further letter to North Somerset Council be sent regarding the potential adoption of other Play areas to include West Wick, for consideration within the Town Council's Play Strategy.

There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting at 7.58 pm

Signed.....Dated

Chair of the Amenities, Culture and Leisure Committee