



**WESTON-SUPER-MARE TOWN COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF THE AMENITIES, CULTURE AND LEISURE COMMITTEE  
HELD AT 32 WATERLOO STREET ON  
MONDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2025**

**Meeting Commenced:** 7.00 pm

**Meeting Concluded:** 8.01 pm

**PRESENT:** Councillors Simon Harrison-Morse (C), Ray Armstrong, Roger Bailey, Peter Crew, Catherine Gibbons (part attendance), Caroline Reynolds and Robert Skeen.

**ALSO, IN ATTENDANCE:** Sarah Pearse (Chief Executive Officer/ Town Clerk), Samantha Bishop (Democratic Services Manager) and Lasse Goke (Work placement student from Hildesheim)

<p><b>Apologies for Absence and Notification of Substitutes</b></p> <p>It was noted that Councillor Gibbons would be late to the meeting and that Councillor John Standfield was absent from the meeting.</p>
<p><b>Declarations of Interest</b></p> <p>There were none received.</p>
<p><b>To agree the accuracy of the previous Amenities, Culture and Leisure Committee Minutes held on 4<sup>th</sup> November 2024</b></p> <p>The minutes of the Amenities Culture and Leisure Committee held on the 4<sup>th</sup> November had been previously circulated.</p> <p><b>PROPOSED BY:</b> Councillor Peter Crew <b>SECONDED BY:</b> Councillor Robert Skeen</p> <p>A vote was taken and <b>carried</b>. Accordingly.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> That the Minutes of the Amenities Culture and Leisure Committee be signed and approved.</p>

## **AMENITIES**

### **Presentation from Eat Festivals**

The Chair invited Bev Miller-Simmons to make her presentation for the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Eat Festivals, providing dates of the 2025 Eat Festivals on 12/04/25 ,27/09/25 and 29/12/25 to the meeting via PowerPoint.

*Councillor Catherine Gibbons joined the meeting at 7.06pm*

Once the presentation had concluded, Bev added that Eat Festival was supportive of the council running a weekly market but not a monthly additional market and confirmed their dismay as this was felt would be direct competition for them. As such, they felt strongly that the council should consider this when choosing to invest in any market.

A question and answer session then ensued, covering the following points;

1. Confirmation was provided that both weekly or any potential monthly market would be a general and not food only market.
2. By default, a weekly market was a monthly market and would be occurring between the months of March and December.
3. Members confirmed they had visited the chosen market operators' other venues in Taunton and were happy that this confirmed the market was general not completely food based.

The CEO/Town Clerk advised that a formal proposal had not yet been received and that the monthly market would be a general market offer which would need to be approved by Town Council and a full procurement process undertaken.

It was noted that North Somerset Council owned the Italian Gardens and therefore, the final decision after going through the licensing process, would be determined in this way.

*The Chair thanked Bev for her address and she left the meeting at 7.20pm*

### **To approve the (DRAFT) Notes of the Allotments Community Consultative Group held on the 24<sup>th</sup> October 2024**

The minutes had been previously circulated.

Progress on actions 6.1 and 6.6 of the notes were requested and members were advised that:

6.1 A meeting had been held between the CEO/Town Clerk, officers, Chair and other members of the Allotment Club to review the terms of the Agreement and that a Special Allotments Community Consultative Group meeting be called to approve the Agreement in February, on a date TBA.

6.6 That the Deputy CEO/Town Clerk had begun exploration into the potential of land at Weston Village for an Allotment Site, which would be further reported at committee.

**PROPOSED BY:** Councillor Roger Bailey  
**SECONDED BY:** Councillor Catherine Gibbons

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

**RESOLVED:** - That the notes be received.

## **CULTURE**

### **.1 To approve the (DRAFT) Notes of the Old Town Quarry Start and Finish Group held on the 29<sup>th</sup> October and 10<sup>th</sup> December 2024**

It was noted that there was a typo at the top of page17 which should reflect the project extension date as 2025.

**PROPOSED BY:** Councillor Caroline Reynolds  
**SECONDED BY:** Councillor Annabelle Chard

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

**RESOLVED:** - That the notes be received.

### **.2 To approve the (DRAFT) Notes of the Heritage Arts and Culture Community Consultative Group held on the 7<sup>th</sup> November 2024**

A member would like to see the return of the literary festival, to which the CEO/Town Clerk could request this through Super Culture, however it was noted that the council did not have the events budget to do this.

The Chair questioned why a member was elected as Chair of the meeting, which was not the terms of reference of the Community Consultative Group (CCG) agreed by Council.

Discussion ensued regarding the role and remit of a Community Consultative Group and whether this was understood by members and external organisations on the membership.

The CEO/Town Clerk suggested that at the next meeting of the HACCG the external community membership would be asked if anyone wished to Chair.

A member suggested a 'Community of Practice Group' maybe more of an appropriate option as this allowed for the community to inform the council of what they were doing.

It was raised that the setup of a CCG forum for allotments was not ideal in terms of elected members having a level of control, however, the CEO/Town Clerk advised that within the committee structure review the authority and responsibility for both the HACCG and the Allotment CCG had now transferred to the Amenities, Culture and Leisure Committee (ACL) and as such, the role of the CCG was purely for consultation.

The Chair confirmed that any Committee terms of reference changes would need to be reviewed by Council in May.

**PROPOSED BY:** Councillor Peter Crew  
**SECONDED BY:** Councillor Roger Bailey

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

**RESOLVED:** That the notes be received.

## **LEISURE**

### **Play Strategy**

The covering report of the Director of Community Services/Deputy CEO/Town Clerk and proposed Play Strategy had been previously circulated.

At the previous Amenities, Culture, and Leisure meeting on Monday, November 4th, 2024, the Deputy CEO/Town Clerk provided an update to the committee. It was confirmed that Sports and Play Consulting had been appointed to create a Play Strategy for Weston Town Council (WTC). The strategy would focus on assessing and enhancing the town's current play facilities across Weston-super-Mare following a brief set out by the town council. (WSMTC Appendix 1- Play Strategy Brief).

In preparation for this report, the council has received the following documents from Sports and Play Consulting, which had been previously circulated:

**.1 Main Report and Summary:** Overview of the 18 sites with summary and conclusions (sections 7-9) (Appendix 2 – 26 pages)

**.2 Individual Assessments:** Excel spreadsheets detailing assessments on Accessibility, Play, and Inclusivity (Appendix 3 – 14 site reports)

**.3 Guiding Play Principles:** Recommendations for future design considerations and approaches, aligned with the Council's 10-year Strategy (Appendix 4)

### **.4 Devolvement of further Play Areas from NSC (2025/2026)**

WSMTC have been asked to consider the transfer of maintenance, asset and operations of a further 24 Play areas from NSC, having undertaken an initial visual assessment (in house) it is deemed that further full inspection is undertaken to determine the exact condition of any future play areas due to the current condition in some areas.

The council's ROSPA was currently undertaking an assessment for WSMTC on the suggested sites from NSC to enable the council to consider which sites and how many should transfer in year 1 (25/26).

.4.1 Any agreed transfer of individual sites in 2025/2026 should also be assessed at the earliest opportunity and included in the final Play Strategy document.

The CEO/Town Clerk reported that the Play Strategy was received by the council the same day as the issue of the agenda.

The views of the Finance and General Purposes Committee (F&GP) in the first draft submitted on the budget provision for play areas was too high and not affordable at this level. Officers were therefore asked to wait for the final Play Strategy doc and re-access the budget requirement for further consideration by the ACL and F&GP.

It was noted that many of the 22 NSC play areas on inspection, were deemed in a very poor state and a further Play Strategy report to include the additional 15-16 play areas from NSC. Upon receipt on the ROSPA inspection report, a further decision from council would be needed.

The council had budgeted £385K over 5years on the basis that it took on all NSC play areas; considering £40K of compliance was needed at the Water Park alone; £190K was recommended on repairs and £250K capital investment was suggested.

Direction from the Committee was sought for consideration by F&GP.

Referring to the Play Strategy, members questioned the plans for Millennium Green if not taken over, to which the CEO/Town Clerk suggested this could be a potential allotment site, devolved to the Allotment Club to manage and this would require formal approval by council at a later date, should this want to be considered.

The CEO/Town Clerk advised that any community engagement would be managed as a similar exercise to that of Castle Batch.

In response to a question regarding the Play Consultant, the CEO/CEO/Town Clerk informed that they had been appointed through a formal process and any additional works would be a contract extension and would require additional budget.

To manage the publics needs over the potential removal of any play areas such as Millennium Green, it was suggested that a play area could be sited at Drove Road recreation ground and considered at other recreation ground sites.

Members suggested the opportunity of increasing its income on parks / concessions and in general, approved the concept of the Play Strategy and its adoption, considering the impacts on community, if the council did not invest.

The CEO/Town Clerk advised that the Committee would be recommending adoption to F&GP, for final approval at council where all members would have the opportunity to comment if necessary.

Concern was raised regarding the lack of time had to consult with the public on this and whether play was a priority. It was questioned that If the council only took on 50% of the play areas, then would the £480K reduce? To which the CEO/Town Clerk informed that this would not, however would be recognised in budget, for the council to reprioritise.

It was noted that the budget drop in session scheduled for the 18<sup>th</sup> January would be an opportunity for members to ask further questions. However, the Chair would like the views of the committee communicated to F&GP.

**PROPOSED BY:** Councillor Peter Crew

**SECONDED BY:** Councillor Robert Skeen

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

**RESOLVED:**

1. To approve the use of the Play Consultant (Sports & Play Consulting) for any further play area transfers to be included within the Play Strategy.

	<p>2. To adopt the Play Strategy (Appendix 2) as a principle of how the council operate and maintain play provisions and to identify priority replacement programmes.</p> <p>3. To recommend the suggested budget outlined in Section: 5.3 (£480,000 per year – 5-year programme) to F&amp;GP on the 20<sup>th</sup> January. The committee felt strongly that following the lengthy process undertaken by the former Tourism &amp; Leisure Committee and subsequent Amenities Committee with regards to the Play Strategy and indication of budget requirements as a result, that their recommendation of the budget suggested in Section: 5.3 be included within the final budget set by F&amp;GP.</p>
	<p>There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting at 8.01 pm</p> <p>Signed.....Dated .....</p> <p>Chair of the Amenities, Culture and Leisure Committee</p>