



**WESTON-SUPER- MARE TOWN COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD AT 32 WATERLOO STREET ON  
MONDAY 23<sup>RD</sup> SEPTEMBER 2024**

**Meeting Commenced:** 7:00 pm

**Meeting Concluded:** 8:08 pm

**PRESENT:** Councillors John Crockford-Hawley (Town Mayor), Ray Armstrong, Roger Bailey, Mike Bell, Joe Bambridge, Gill Bute, Mark Canniford, John Carson, Annabelle Chard, Peter Crew, Catherine Gibbons, Simon Harrison-Morse, Owen James, Hugh Malyan, Robert Payne, Alan Peak, Justyna Pecak-Michalowicz, Marcia Pepperall, Caroline Reynolds, Robert Skeen, Timothy Taylor, Richard Tucker, Charles Williams and Martin Williams.

**ALSO, IN ATTENDANCE:** Sarah Pearse (Chief Executive Officer/Town Clerk), Fay Powell (Director of Community Services-Deputy Town Clerk), Samantha Bishop (Democratic Services Manager), Rebecca Saunders (Civic & Committee Officer) and Becky Walsh (Communications and Marketing Manager).

<b>126</b>	<b>Apologies for Absence and Notification of Substitutions</b>  Apologies for absence were received from councillors Jemma Coles, Helen Thornton, Catherine Gibbons and Lisa Pilgrim in advance of the meeting.  Apologies for absence were given at the meeting for councillors Marc Aplin and John Stanfield and it was noted that Councillor Ciaran Cronnelly would be late or absent due to a delayed train.
<b>127</b>	<b>Declarations of Interest</b>  There were none received.
<b>128</b>	<b>To approve the accuracy of the minutes of the Special Town Council Meeting held on the 17<sup>th</sup> June 2024</b>  The minutes of the last meeting had been previously circulated.  An amendment to the minutes was requested, that Councillor Charles Williams be recorded as present at the meeting.  <b>PROPOSED BY:</b> Councillor Robert Payne <b>SECONDED BY:</b> Councillor Tim Taylor  A vote was taken and accordingly it was <b>carried</b> .

	<p><b>RESOLVED:</b> That with the above amendment, the minutes be approved and signed by the Chair as a true record of the meeting.</p>
129	<p><b>To receive the Minutes of Youth Council Meetings held in February, March, April, May, and June 2024</b></p> <p>The minutes of the meetings had been previously circulated.</p> <p>There were no observations made.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> That the minutes be received.</p>
130	<p><b>To receive announcements and communications from the Town Mayor</b></p> <p>The Mayor's announcements and communications had been circulated prior to the meeting.</p> <p>There had been 111 engagements attended by the Mayor; 6 by the Deputy Mayor and 1 by the Leader which was a total of 111 to date.</p> <p>An amendment to the report was noted to reflect that on the 23<sup>rd</sup> August, the Town Mayor met with Refugees Welcome and not RENS. These were two different organisations.</p> <p>The Mayor announced the passing of Clive Dark, who was a former Town Councillor. Funeral details would be circulated and the Council had sent their condolences to his family.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> That the Town Mayor's report be noted.</p>
131	<p><b>Neighbourhood and Response Policing in Weston-super-Mare</b></p> <p>The Town Mayor welcomed and introduced Inspector Lee Kerslake, to address the meeting.</p> <p>Inspector Lee Kerslake gave an overview of the current policing situation across the Weston to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An update on Neighbourhood Policing Activity</li> <li>• Current staffing overview</li> <li>• Crime reporting overview: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Serious ASB issues around Alexandra Parade where Criminal Behaviour Orders (CBO's) had been issued in order to manage the situation.</li> <li>- Incidents reported around illegal trading vapes and tobacco, where goods had been seized from local businesses.</li> <li>- A warrant was executed on Bournville for a significant drug issue.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Councillors raised concern that Weston was not getting its fair share of policing resource. In response to a question regarding the Polices relationship with Community Response, the Inspector reported the strong working ties to this team enabling them to control and target problematic areas of the town. The Inspector said the information shared between the two teams was essential to their work.</p> <p>A question was asked by a councillor regarding timescales of arrest to court hearing and the Inspector stated that this depended on the plea, but realistically it was months and that the CBO'S orders with persistent offenders being remanded assisted the process.</p>

	<p>Debate ensued regarding the recruitment of PCSO's and general police resourcing and it was confirmed there was a recruitment freeze until March 2025.</p> <p>The Inspector was thanked by the Mayor for a thorough and accurate report and <i>he left the meeting at 7:35pm</i></p>
132	<p>It was then</p> <p><b>PROPOSED BY:</b> Councillor John Crockford-Hawley  <b>SECONDED BY:</b> Councillor Peter Crew</p> <p>That Standing Orders be suspended to allow an address by a member of the public.</p> <p>Mr Malcom Nicholson addressed the council encouraging them to continue with projects such as the Old Town Quarry, pursue defibrillation units at the Museum, Theatre and the Town Council office at 32, Waterloo Street and to continue to support the 20mph speed zones within Weston.</p> <p><i>Standing Orders were resumed at 7:41pm</i></p>
133	<p><b>To Adopt the revised Standing Orders, Code of Conduct and Financial Regulations</b></p> <p>The covering report of the Chief Executive Officer/Town Clerk, (Minute extract of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 19<sup>th</sup> August 2024 and the following reviewed had been previously circulated.</p> <p><b>133.1 Standing Orders</b></p> <p>An amendment was proposed by Councillor Robert Payne to remove SO (Standing Order) number 4.3 as follows:</p> <p><i>4.3 The mayor/chair of council is entitled to attend all committees and sub-committees in a non-voting, ex-officio capacity. The mayor/chair of council</i>  <i>4.3.1 cannot be put forward as a substitute for absent councillors on any committee or sub-committee</i>  <i>4.3.2 is not eligible to act as chair or vice chair of the committee or sub-committee</i>  <i>4.3.3 the committee/sub-committee is not able to agree for the mayor/chair of council to have a vote at committee/sub-committee</i></p> <p>Debate ensued regarding the amendment.</p> <p><b>PROPOSED BY:</b> Councillor Robert Payne  <b>SECONDED BY:</b> Councillor Mark Canniford</p> <p>A vote was taken and accordingly it was <b>carried</b>. (12 For/11 Against)</p> <p>The AMENDEMENT stood and further vote was taken on the amendment.</p> <p><b>PROPOSED BY:</b> Councillor Peter Crew  <b>SECONDED BY:</b> Councillor Roger Bailey</p> <p>Accordingly, it was <b>carried</b>. (14 For/5 Against /2 Abstentions)</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> That the Standing Orders as proposed with the deletion of SO 4.3 stand for subsequent approval at the Town Council Meeting on the 25<sup>TH</sup> November 2024.</p>

	<p><b>133.2 Code of Conduct</b>  The covering report of the Chief Executive Officer/Town Clerk, (Minute Extract of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 19<sup>th</sup> August 2024 and the following reviewed had been previously circulated.</p> <p><b>PROPOSED BY:</b> Councillor John Crockford- Hawley  <b>SECONDED BY:</b> Councillor Robert Payne</p> <p>A vote was taken and <b>carried</b>.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> That the Code of Conduct be approved.</p> <p><b>133.3 Financial Regulations</b>  The covering report of the Chief Executive Officer/Town Clerk, (Minute Extract of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 19<sup>th</sup> August 2024 and the following reviewed had been previously circulated.</p> <p><b>PROPOSED BY:</b> Councillor Mark Canniford  <b>SECONDED BY:</b> Councillor Peter Crew</p> <p>A vote was taken and accordingly it was <b>carried</b>.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> That the Financial Regulations be approved.</p>
134	<p><b>Local Council Award Scheme</b>  The covering report of the Chief Executive Officer/Town Clerk and Democratic Services Manager had been previously circulated.</p> <p>The Local Council Award Scheme provides a tiered framework within which councils can demonstrate that they reach a benchmarked standard of governance, community engagement and council development. Benefits include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a progressive, consistent and recognised framework for councils to use to achieve improvement.</li> <li>• a consistent benchmark against which external partners can identify and tailor support for local councils.</li> </ul> <p><b>PROPOSED BY:</b> Councillor James Clayton  <b>SECONDED BY:</b> Councillor Robert Payne</p> <p>A vote was taken and accordingly it was <b>carried</b>.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. That the council publishes policies and information identified within the assessment framework online.</li> <li>2. To provide a statement that council has specific policies and HR-related documents in place.</li> <li>3. To register for the LCAS with the intention of submitting for the Foundation Award accreditation within 6 months.</li> </ol>
135	<b>Blakehay Lighting Overspend Request</b>

	<p>The report of the Theatre Manager had been previously circulated which recommended members to approve the overspend of Equipment Purchase to replace lighting equipment at the theatre that has come to the end of its life.</p> <p><b>PROPOSED BY:</b> Councillor James Clayton  <b>SECONDED BY:</b> Councillor Robert Payne</p> <p>A vote was taken and accordingly it was <b>carried</b>.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> That the overspend of the Lighting Equipment purchase for 3 x LED lanterns from JP Leisure at £10,273.50, plus VAT, including shipping be approved.</p>
	<p>There being no further business, the Chair closed the meeting at 8.08 pm.</p> <p>Signed: ..... Dated: .....</p>