Yeovil Town Council

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Mayor: Cllr T Lock
Chief Executive / Town Clerk: Amanda Card BA (Hons), FCPFA, BSc (Open)
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Minutes of the hybrid meeting of the Property & Community Committee 10th November 2026 at 7.00pm held by video-conference using Zoom meeting software; and in the Town House, 19 Union Street, Yeovil BA20 1PQ.

Present (in person): Cllrs R Stickland (in the chair); T Casey; K Gill; A Kendall; T Lock; J Lowery; W Read; A Richards; A Soughton; H Stonier; D Woan.

In Attendance (in person): A Card (Chief Executive / Town Clerk); T Cook (Director of Property & Community); E Marsh (Community Warden); C Norman (Community Warden); and Sergeant Josh Rutter (Avon and Somerset Police).

There were no members of the public present.

Public Comment

Sergeant Josh Rutter from Avon and Somerset Police, provided an update on policing in Yeovil, reiterating the ongoing issues regarding anti-social behaviour, shoplifting and E-Scooter misuse.

He reported that the police are in collaboration with Somerset Council, working to ensure building security and exploring the potential efficacy of the prosecution of young people that engage in 'Urban Exploration'. Members shared the concerns of business owners within the town centre who are seeing an increasingly negative impact on their businesses. It was noted that the police are conducting criminal behaviour audits of their highest current offenders and are active in their monitoring of ongoing issues.

Members were also informed of a new operation currently underway, with police taking advantage of the Local Neighbourhood team and offering overtime to the wider force over the last 6 weeks. Members noted the success of this initiative, with an approximation of 20 charges for theft and several arrests for drug possession.

The Committee noted that the ongoing issue of E-Scooter misuse remains a priority for Avon and Somerset Police. Members discussed the potential for adding points on the license of an individual engaging in misuse and queried what form an appropriate response from police could take, given that the majority of those who engage with E-Scooters are children, and thus, the police are limited. It was also suggested that the legislation be strengthened regarding public access as currently, anyone can buy an E-Scooter without their use of the

product being registered and monitored. Members encouraged Avon and Somerset police to engage with residents and educate on current E-Scooter legislation.

Members were reassured that, although there are active issues within the town, the police are of the opinion that there has been a positive reduction in anti-social behaviour over the last two years.

7:22pm – The meeting commenced and Sergeant Josh Rutter left the meeting and did not return.

11/364 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND TO CONSIDER THE REASONS GIVEN

Council to receive apologies for absence and consider the reasons given. *LGA 1972 s85(1)*

There were no apologies received.

**Legislation requires that Councillors need to be physically present at the meeting to be shown as present. If a Councillor is unable to attend in person but can attend virtually, then apologies for absence should be given.*

RESOLVED: to accept the apologies with the reasons given.

11/365 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr J Lowrey declared a personal interest in 11/368 – Westfield Youth Report, due to her role as a Trustee and spokesperson for the Westfield Community Association.

Cllr R Stickland declared a personal interest in 11/368 – Westfield Youth Report, due to his role as Trustee for Westfield Community Association.

11/366 MINUTES

The Committee confirmed as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting held on 8th September 2026.

RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the meeting held on 8th September 2026 to be agreed and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

11/367 DEFIBRILLATOR AND BLEEDKIT UPDATE

The Committee considered a report from the Admin Officer regarding defibrillators and bleed kits.

Members sought clarification as to whether all bleed kits shown on the map were located within the parish of Yeovil. The Chief Executive/Town Clerk confirmed that the bleed kits identified as “Yeovil Town Council locations” had been funded by Yeovil Town Council, whereas those identified as “Existing locations in Yeovil” had been funded by external organisations. It was further noted that the latter category represented locations across the wider Yeovil area and was not limited to sites within the parish boundary. The Chief Executive/Town Clerk advised that this distinction would be made clearer in future reports.

RESOLVED: to note the report.

11/368 WESTFIELD YOUTH REPORT

The Committee considered a report from St James and St Peter's Youth regarding their provision of youth clubs in Yeovil.

RESOLVED: to note the report.

11/369 DEVELOPING A YOUTH STRATEGY FOR YEOVIL

The Committee considered the report from the Director of Property and Community regarding the development of a Youth Strategy for Yeovil.

The Director of Property and Community reminded the Committee that the three-year Service Level agreement with YMCA Brunel was due to end, prompting considerations for future provisions for young people in the town. It was noted that, due to the rise of anti-social behaviour in young people, the development of a youth strategy is critical, with considerations for activities such as martial arts, crafts, and the potential for taster events at local schools. Members also noted the importance of ensuring that all young people are reflected in these activities, not just the activities of pre-existing youth groups.

There was a current underspend within the YMCA Brunel provision which related to an under-delivery of outreach work due to limited capacity. The Director of Property and Community stated that this saving could fund work to develop the Youth Strategy. Members were asked to consider and endorse the desired framework and approach as described within the report.

RESOLVED: 1) to note the report; and 2) to endorse the proposed approach to future Town Council supported youth provision.

11/370 COMMUNITY WARDEN UPDATE

The Committee considered a report from the Director of Property and Community regarding an update on the Community Warden service.

The Director of Property and Community stated that after 12 months of service, despite personnel changes, the service provided by the three Community Wardens is operating effectively and developing well.

A Community Warden (CN) updated the Committee on operations in the town centre, outlining the Wardens' role in supporting public wellbeing and providing a visible, uniformed presence. He also emphasised the importance of being aware of active offenders within the town centre and understanding deescalation when necessary. He explained that part of the Warden's role was to act as a point of contact for staff in the town's shops, who are often unable to intervene directly.

Members discussed performance indicators for the Community Wardens to review service successes and areas for improvement.

A Community Warden (EM) updated Members on recent community engagement work, highlighting positive feedback on the knitted poppy display for the Remembrance.

RESOLVED: to note the report.

11/371 CCTV – UPDATE

The Committee considered the report from the Director of Property and Community regarding an update on CCTV provisions in Yeovil.

The Director of Property and Community outlined the potential installation of CCTV in the West Hendford underpass following investigations by the Community Wardens. Somerset Council is expected to provide a quotation and proposal. The Council is working with partners to ensure that CCTV installations across the town would not have adverse impact, with a report to the Committee planned for January 2027.

Members queried the efficacy of CCTV preventing littering and other anti-social behaviour and suggested the benefit of comparing recent figures provided by Somerset Council to year previous.

RESOLVED: to note the report.

11/372 COMMUNITY HALL CHARGING

The Committee considered the report from the Chief Executive/Town Clerk regarding Milford Hall and the Town House Council Chamber.

The Chief Executive/Town Clerk updated the Committee on the anticipated reduction in Milford Hall's energy costs following the recent installation of solar panels. Members were invited to review the figures, noting that the annual estimates were provisional due to limited data.

Members discussed the existing kitchen hire arrangements and recognised that not-for-profit organisations do not pay for use of the kitchen. As a result, any kitchen hire charge would primarily apply to private and commercial hirers. Members further noted the practical difficulties of restricting access, as hirers would reasonably expect access to running water and to emergency first aid equipment stored within the kitchen. It was therefore suggested that no separate charge be made for use of the kitchen facilities from the 2027/28 financial year onwards.

RESOLVED: 1) to approve the proposed hire charges for Milford Community Hall and the Town Council Chamber with effect from 1st April 2027; 2) to approve the removal of the separate charge for use of the Milford Hall kitchen and to include access to the kitchen within the standard hall hire charge for all users; and 3) to recommend the approved changes to the Executive for adoption.

11/373 BUDGET MONITORING UPDATE

The Committee considered the Budget Monitoring Update Month 6 (April 2026 -September 2026).

The Chief Executive/Town Clerk noted an anticipated £794 overspend for 2026/27.

Members sought clarification on the potential transfer of surplus electricity funds to the Emergency Climate Fund. The Chief Executive/Town Clerk advised that the allocation of any remaining funds would be a matter for the Committee to determine at the end of the year, as the Council was unable to accurately forecast the final position at this stage.

RESOLVED: to note the report.

11/374 BUDGET SETTING 2027/28

The Committee was invited to consider the draft Budget Setting 2027/28.

The Chief Executive/Town Clerk highlighted to members an increase in overall budget for 2027/28, due to the recent acquisition of the new Council site at Oxford Road.

RESOLVED: to note the report.

11/375 E- SCOOTERS

The Committee considered the responses from the Department of Transport and the Chief Constable of Avon and Somerset Police regarding the ongoing issue with E-Scooters.

Members noted that the Department of Transport plan to consult on detailed proposals for E-Scooter regulation.

Members felt there was a discrepancy between the information provided by the Chief Constable of Avon and Somerset Police and that provided by Sergeant Rutter. They suggested that the Council seek an update on operational activity being undertaken by officers and share the correspondence to help align objectives. Members also considered the potential for a collaborative public awareness campaign, once all discrepancies have been addressed.

RESOLVED: 1) to note the report; 2) to engage with Avon and Somerset Police and share the correspondence to clarify shared objectives.

11/376 PROPERTY UPDATE REPORT

The Committee considered the report provided by the Property and Projects Co-ordinator.

Members sought clarification on the proposed air conditioning works at Westlands Entertainment Venue and queried the potential of less costly alternatives, as both the project and the need to keep areas of the venue will incur significant costs. The Director of Property and Community stated that the specification received was for air conditioning and that this therefore remained the focus of the current enquiries. Given that the project is in the very early stages, it was noted that there may be opportunity to review and provide more specific financial details in January 2027.

RESOLVED: to note the report.

11/377 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED: to exclude the press and public from the remainder of the meeting in accordance with Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 on the grounds that publicity of agenda item 11/378 would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

11/378 LOCAL MANAGEMENT OF THE TRIANGLE – UPDATE (CONFIDENTIAL)

The Committee considered an update report from the Chief Executive/Town Clerk on the local management of the Triangle in collaboration with Somerset Council.

Members noted the significant costs identified and considered the three potential management models presented. Further work is required to establish the financial implications of each model.

RESOLVED: 1) to note the report; 2) to note that currently identified annual operating costs; 3) to acknowledge that significant information gaps remain and that Somerset Council need to provide the additional information within the report; 4) to note that officers continue discussions and undertake further due diligence; and 5) to receive a further report following completion of due diligence and receipt of the outstanding information required from Somerset Council, to enable Members to determine whether accepting management responsibility for The Triangle represents an appropriate and sustainable use of Town Council resources.

The meeting closed at 8:34pm.

Signed: …… Dated: ……