



Yeovil Town Council

Town House
19 Union Street
Yeovil
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BA20 1PQ

Mayor: Cllr E Potts-Jones, Town Clerk: Amanda Card BA (Hons), CPFA, BSc (Open)
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Minutes of the hybrid meeting of the Buildings & Civic Matters Committee 18th January 2022 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 (Chair); N Gage; A Kendall; T Ledlie and E Potts-Jones.

Present (virtually): Cllrs D Gubbins (from 7:18pm) and Cllr D Recardo (from 7:01pm).

In Attendance (in person): A Card (Town Clerk) and H Ferdinand (Deputy Town Clerk).

In Attendance (virtually): Cllr A Richards (Wyndham Hill Ward)

There was no members of the public, and one member of the press present virtually.

Public Comment

There were no comments.

7:00pm – *The meeting commenced.*

10/182 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND TO CONSIDER THE REASONS GIVEN

Apologies were received from Cllr K Gill (conflicting engagement); and Cllr D Gubbins (conflicting engagement) but would join virtually when he could.

RESOLVED: to accept the apologies with the reasons given.

10/183 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations at this time.

10/184 MINUTES

The Committee confirmed as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting 16th November 2021.

RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the meeting held on 16th November 2021 and that they be signed as a correct record.

10/185 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS – OCTOBER 2021 / NOVEMBER 2021

Members considered the Financial Statement for the period 1st October 2021 to 30th November 2021.

RESOLVED: that the Financial Statement for the period 1st October 2021 to 30th November 2021.

10/186 DRAFT BUDGET 2022/23

The Committee considered the draft budget.

RESOLVED: that the draft Buildings and Civic Matters Budget for 2022/23 be approved and recommended to the Policy, Resources and Finance Committee.

10/187 DEFIBRILLATOR UPDATE

Members considered the verbal report of the Town Clerk regarding the defibrillator project.

The Town Clerk informed the Committee that the third defibrillator had now been launched at Yeovil Country Park. This defibrillator had been funded by the fundraising efforts of the team at the Yeovil branch of Nationwide Building Society.

The Emporium were still fundraising to contribute 50% of the costs to a defibrillator in Princess Street.

The Town Clerk spoke of her difficulty in securing appropriate locations for the defibrillators in the Forest Hill, Westfield and St Johns areas of Yeovil.

The Town Clerk confirmed that each defibrillator was registered with the “The Circuit” (the national defibrillator network which connected defibrillators to the NHS ambulance service so that callers to 999 can be quickly directed to their nearest defibrillator in an emergency) and Lifelink Central which monitors the defibrillator for readiness.

Cllr D Recardo mentioned that South Somerset District Council owned two buildings in Yeovil Town Centre – M&S and Wilkinsons.

RESOLVED: to note the update.

10/188 BENCH AT PENN HILL

Members had previously discussed the bench at Penn Hill where the Committee resolved to repair the bench even though ownership was unknown. However, the bench has been assessed and found to be beyond repair. Complaints had also been received about the anti-social behaviour that occurs by the bench. Members considered the course of required action – i.e., leave it, replace it or remove the bench, although there was issues not knowing who owned the bench.

Councillors agreed that members of the public should not be picking up the types of rubbish described, and they needed to report any anti-social behaviour to the police via 101. An argument was given that the anti-social behaviour should be policed better.

There were concerns that the Council had a duty of care to the public and the bench was now dangerous meaning someone could hurt themselves. Debate was held over the use of bench, and it was highlighted that although there was anti-social usage there was also genuine use of bench.

It was reiterated that ownership had been extensively investigated and it is not known who owns the bench or who owns the land.

Questions were raised about what the police thought about the bench's location. The Mayor, Cllr E Potts-Jones had a meeting with Sergeant Crawford scheduled for the next day and she would speak to him regarding his thoughts on the anti-social behaviour at the bench.

Cllr A Kendall said that there was another bench that would be available to replace the bench.

It was ultimately agreed that the Council have a duty of care and in the interest of public safety the bench should be removed. A notice should be attached to the bench stating that the bench would be removed in 14 days due to it being a safety hazard.

RESOLVED: (1) to note the report; (2) that the Mayor, Cllr E Potts-Jones discuss the location of the bench and the anti-social behavior issues with Sergeant Crawford; and (3) that a notice be attached to the bench stating that the bench would be removed in 14 days due to it being a safety hazard.

10/189 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 10/168 would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 s3

7:43pm – The member of the press left the meeting and did not return.

10/190 WATER HYGIENE RISK ASSESSMENTS (COMMERCIAL IN CONFIDENCE)

The Committee considered the report of the Deputy Town Clerk regarding the water hygiene risk assessments at Town House, Milford Hall, Petters Way Toilets and Peter Street Toilets.

RESOLVED: (1) to the note the report; (2) to agree that the identified specialist tasks and one-off works be carried out to reduce the risk of exposure to legionella and other water hygiene issues; and (3) to waive the Financial Regulations (11) (d) on the basis that no other suitable and local company have been found, and appoint Pure Drop to undertake the

specialist tasks identified and costs for Town House, Milford Hall, Petters Way Toilets and Peter Street Toilets.

10/191 LETTING OF MILFORD HALL (COMMERCIAL IN CONFIDENCE) (URGENT BUSINESS)

Members considered the report by the Deputy Town Clerk regarding the final lease agreement between Yeovil Town Council and the Family Time Team. This had been agreed in accordance with Standing Orders, paragraph 4d(xiv) 'Urgent Business'. There is a requirement to report to this meeting.

RESOLVED: (1) to note the report; and (2) that the use of Standing Orders, paragraph 4d(xiv) 'Urgent Business' be noted.

The meeting closed at 8:05 pm.

Signed:

Dated: