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 Culture Committee held on Tuesday 17th November 2026 at 7.00pm in the Town House, 19 Union Street, Yeovil BA20 1PQ; and by video-conference using Zoom meeting software.

Present (in person): Cllr D Woan (in the chair); T Casey; K Gill; T Lock; G Oakes; K Parsons; and W Read.

In Attendance (in person): A Card (Chief Executive/Town Clerk); A Burgan (Director of Culture); and T McKay (Events Officer); and Cllr A Soughton.

Present (virtually): Cllr E Potts-Jones and A Richards (from 7:09pm).

There was one member of the press present virtually.

Public Comment.

There was no public comment.

7:00 pm – The meeting commenced.

11/260 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND TO CONSIDER THE REASONS GIVEN

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

Apologies were received from Cllrs E Hopkins (work commitments); J Lowery (personal reasons); E Potts-Jones (illness); and A Richards (personal reasons).

**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.

11/261 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

11/262 MINUTES

The Committee approved as a correct record the Minutes of the previous meeting held on 15th September 2026.

RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the previous meeting held on 15th September be signed by the Chair as correct record.

11/263 CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH-ON EVENT - UPDATE

The Events Officer provided an update regarding progress on the Christmas Lights Switch-on Event.

Members noted the funfair's cancellation and efforts by the Events Officer and Community Wardens to find a replacement provider. They were advised that, given the short notice, the event may proceed without the funfair this year. The Events Officer stated that there is opportunity to revisit and expand the event in the following year.

The Committee thanked the Events Officer for her efforts in upgrading events across the Council's Events portfolio.

RESOLVED: to note the update.

11/264 COUNTRY WEST FEST - UPDATE

The Committee considered the update report regarding the Country West Fest.

The Events Officer clarified the necessity of a larger budget to ensure the scale of the event.

Members discussed concerns around significant budget increase, given the event's previous poor financial performance, and the appropriateness of Westlands as a venue. It was suggested that a business case be collated to determine demand, venue, scale, genre and financial feasibility, as well as value for residents.

RESOLVED: 1) to note the report; 2) to defer back to the Working Party and prepare a business case for consideration in January.

11/265 BUDGET MONITORING – UPDATE

The Committee considered the budget monitoring update for September.

RESOLVED: to note the report.

11/266 BUDGET SETTING 2027/28

The Committee considered the budget setting report for 2027/28.

The Chief Executive/Town Clerk clarified that the report was still in progress. Although the PWLB loan reflects expenditure for the Culture Committee, in accordance with the Scheme of Delegation, management of the loan sits with the Executive. Members were reminded that some of the budget for the Octagon Theatre had been vired to Executive to cover the first two years of payment of the loan.

RESOLVED: to note the report.

11/267 SOUTH SOMERSET HERITAGE COLLECTION - UPDATE

The Committee considered the report from the Director of Culture.

Members were updated on the progress of procuring a Consultant Led Team to undertake an options appraisal and initial feasibility study, with a shortlist of three candidates for interview.
The Committee also noted that a final report is due for 1st March 2027 and a meeting will be arranged to present on the recommendations provided.

RESOLVED: to note the update.

11/268 RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF YEOVIL CARNIVAL

The Director of Culture shared correspondence from a member of the public regarding re-establishing Yeovil Carnival.

Members recognised the carnival's potential to bring the community together, as well was outside visitors and support local businesses.

Concerns were expressed for the practicalities of reintroducing the carnival, with members involved with previous attempts, highlighting that the Carnival Committee had been unable to identify a safe route agreed with the police to support public safety management.

Members also discussed a fresher approach to reinstating the carnival, including alternative routes, consulting experienced carnival organisers and participating clubs to aid the creation of a feasibility report. It was noted that information gathering would need to be carried out to determine if there was capacity for local carnival clubs to participate.

RESOLVED: 1) to note the report; 2) that a feasibility report be prepared for consideration at a future meeting, including consultation on routes, safety, road closures, funding and club participation; and (3) that the Chief Executive/Town Clerk write to the member of the public regarding this matter.

11/269 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

The Committee is requested to pass a resolution excluding the press and public from the remainder of the meeting in accordance with Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies Act

(Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 on the grounds that publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

8:26pm – Cllr E Potts-Jones; A Richards and the member of the press left the meeting and did not return.

11/270 LOCAL MANAGEMENT OF THE TRIANGLE – UPDATE (CONFIDENTAL)

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 were updated on 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.

11/271 STAFFING AT WESTLANDS (STAFFING IN CONFIDENCE)

The Committee considered the report from the Deputy Town Clerk regarding staff pay at Westlands.

8:39pm – Cllr T Casey left the meeting.

8:43pm – Cllr T Casey returned to the meeting.

RESOLVED: 1) to note the report; and (2) to agree to the recommendations as laid out in the report.

The meeting closed at 8:43pm.

Signed: ……... (Chair) Date: ……