



Yeovil Town Council

Town House
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Mayor: Cllr A Kendall,
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Minutes of the hybrid meeting of the Culture, Events & Promotions Committee held on Monday 13th January 2025 at 7.00pm in the Town House, 19 Union Street, Yeovil BA20 1PQ; and by video-conference using Zoom meeting software.

Committee Members Present (in person): Cllrs D Woan (Chair); T Casey; K Gill; E Hopkins, J Jimba, J Lock (from 7.05pm); T Lock; J Lowery, G Oakes; and R White.

Committee Members Present (in person): Cllr A Kendall (7.30pm – 8.10pm)

In Attendance (in person): A Card (CEO/Town Clerk), S Freemantle (Deputy Town Clerk) and A Burgan (Director of Culture, Events and Promotions).

Also Present (in person): Z Li (Executive Director) and N Rand (Engagement Director), Yeovil Art Space.

Public Comment. There were no members of the public and no members of the press present.

7.00pm – Meeting Commenced

11/174. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND TO CONSIDER THE REASONS GIVEN

There were no apologies for absence (*LGA 1972 s85(1)*).

RESOLVED: to accept the apologies with the reasons given.

11/175. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr J Lowery declared a personal interest in agenda item 11/182 Pantomime 2024/25 as a family member works at Westlands.

11/176. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The Committee approved as a correct record the Minutes of the previous meeting held on 19th November 2024.

RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the meeting of the Promotions and Activities Committee held on 19th November 2024 be signed by the Chair as a correct record.

11/177. UPDATE REPORT FROM YEOVIL ART SPACE

Natasha Rand outlined the events and activities which had been promoted and organised by Yeovil Art Space over the last year and explained that more information was available at www.yeovilartspace.uk.

7.05pm – Cllr J Lock arrived at the meeting.

This included community events and activities in association with organisations including Love Yeovil and Yeovil Country Park reaching out to a very wide range of community groups via the Taste of Yeovil project, the Wassailing and Lantern parade event, launch of the recipe book and the final stages of The Story of Yeovil Project.

The funding provided as part of the Service Level Agreement has supported Yeovil Art Space in attendance at meetings, enhancing and developing community engagement, and demonstrating commitment from the local council and community when applying for further grants.

Zoe Li informed the committee that as a legacy of the Story of Yeovil project an Expression of Interest was ready to be submitted to the Heritage Lottery Fund for £270,000 to investigate and explore the possibilities of the development of a destination for a creative and heritage engagement centre for Yeovil. This would enable further engagement with the communities through creativity and consultation to establish what a museum means to them. An application for an NPO (National Portfolio Organisation) was due to be submitted in July, followed by an application of £1,000,000 to People and Places supporting further projects and engagement in partnership with Southwest Heritage Trust and University of West of England.

An application to the Open Mental Health Alliance was successful and a grant of £10,000 enabled support to local groups and organisations including Yeovil District Hospital. Work on health and wellbeing had continued with the Open Mental Health Alliance enabling specialist training. Warm Spaces funding supports low cost/free creative activity events and Saturday drop-in sessions. Yeovil Art Space had attended Home Farm Fest with a creativity stall and advocated Yeovil town centre to the festival goers who were generally very community and charity minded. YAS had also been involved in Super Saturday, Yeovil Together and Somerset Art Week.

A successful bid for £79,000 from the Arts Council will fund a project called “Our Town” which includes work to demonstrate and improve pride in the town centre.

7.30pm – Andy Kendall arrives at the meeting (virtually).

Discussion took place regarding the outstanding work being carried out. It was noted that Yeovil Art Space had been commissioned by Yeovil Refresh to carry out consultation on the “Meanwhile Use” for Glovers Walk and that representatives from the Town Council and Yeovil Art Space were on the Town Board.

RESOLVED: that the report be noted.

7.44pm – Natasha Rand and Zoe Li left the meeting and did not return.

11/178. EVENT DATES FOR 2025–26

The Committee considered the list of dates and the Deputy Town Clerk explained that the 2026 dates for eat:festivals required agreement: 25th April, 19th September and 21st November.

This list was not exhaustive but provided a basis for adding other events which were appropriate, and it was suggested that the Mayor’s Civic Service, Remembrance Sunday, Yeovil Literary Festival, the Half Marathon and the proposed Country Music Festival be included.

With regard to the Covid-19 Day of reflection it was explained that Somerset Council is lighting up some of the buildings on that day (March 9th) and suggested that St John’s Church be contacted to find out whether it has any plans.

Discussion took place about events in the Town Centre and the Town Clerk/CEO explained that the Town Council required Somerset Council to confirm its plans for management of The Triangle.

RESOLVED: (1) that the dates be noted; (2) that the additional events mentioned above be included in the event list; and (3) that the 2026 dates of 25th April, 19th September and 21st November be confirmed.

11/179. BUDGET MONITORING REPORT MONTH 9 2024/25

The Committee considered the budget monitoring report by the Town Clerk/CEO.

RESOLVED: that the budget monitoring report be noted and approved.

11/180. DRAFT BUDGET 2025/26

The Committee considered and agreed the draft budget.

RESOLVED: that the draft Culture, Events and Promotions Budget be supported and referred to the Policy, Resources and Finance Committee.

11/181. 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 items 11/182 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

8.10pm – Cllr A Kendall left the meeting (virtually) and did not return.

8.10pm – Cllr R White left the meeting.

11/182. PANTOMIME 2024/25 (COMMERCIAL IN CONFIDENCE)

8.11pm – Cllr R White returned to the meeting.

The Committee considered the report by the Director of Culture, Events and Promotions regarding the Pantomime – Jack and the Beanstalk.

RESOLVED: (1) that the report be noted; and (2) that the recommendations within the report for the 2025 production of the pantomime be supported.

The meeting closed at 8.31pm.

Signed: (Chairman)

Date: