



Yeovil Town Council

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Minutes of the hybrid meeting of the Grounds and General Maintenance Committee held on Monday 13 March 2023 at 7.00pm held in the Town House, 19 Union Street, Yeovil BA21 1PQ and by video-conference using Zoom meeting software.

Committee Members Present (in person): Cllrs R Spinner (Chair); T Casey; A Kendall; J Lock; P Lock; E Potts-Jones; A Richards and A Soughton.

Members Present (Virtually): Cllrs T Lock (Lyde Ward).

In Attendance (in person): S Freemantle (Deputy Town Clerk) and L Jones (Assistant Town Clerk).

Public Comment.

There were no members of the public and one member of the press present. No comments were made.

11/068. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND TO CONSIDER THE REASONS GIVEN

Apologies for absence (LGA 1972 s85(1)) were received from Cllr H Stonier (personal reasons) (LGA 1972 s85(1)).

RESOLVED: to accept the apologies with the reasons given.

11/069. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

11/070. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The Committee approved as a correct record the Minutes of the previous meeting held on 9th January 2023.

RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the meeting of the Grounds and General Maintenance Committee held on 9th January 2023 be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

11/071. LITTER AND DOG WASTE BINS

The Team Leader Landscaping and Small Works (SSDC) explained the current situation with regard to litter and dog waste bins and the scheme to replace old bins, where possible, with comingle bins which would require less frequent emptying. The current emptying programme requires human resources to be deployed from the street cleaning teams to keep up with the demand as bins are filling up so quickly and sometimes require emptying once or twice per week. The advantages of the comingle bins also include greater capacity and mechanical emptying, reducing risk to the personnel emptying the bins.

7.12pm – Cllr J Lock left the meeting.

Discussion took place regarding roadside recycling and the merits of educating the public that litter needs to be taken home to be recycled. It was suggested that a contact number be available on the bins so that members of the public are able to report full bins.

7.15pm – Cllr J Lock returned to the meeting.

A question was asked regarding potential odour from larger capacity bins and it was confirmed that deodoriser would be added to the bins.

It was agreed that education and enforcement was the way forward.

In answer to a query it was confirmed that some consideration regarding the locations of the bins would be required to ensure that the vehicle could access the bins for the mechanical opening. It was confirmed that no old style dog bins would be installed in a public open space if the bin can be emptied mechanically.

RESOLVED: (1) to note the report; and (2) to thank the Team Leader Landscaping and Small Works (SSDC) for his presentation.

11/072. PLAY AREA REPAIRS, SCHOOLS OUT PROGRAMME AND PLAY AREA IMPROVEMENTS

The Locality Officers from South Somerset District Council sent their apologies. The Committee considered the written report.

RESOLVED: to note the report.

11/073. ALLOTMENT LETTING/AVAILABILTY REPORT

The Committee considered the report by the Assistant Town Clerk and members were grateful for the information provided. In answer to a query it was confirmed that plots were monitored by regular checks by the Maintenance Operative. It was suggested that plots under review be included in future reports to give an indication of trajectory of occupancy.

The Assistant Town Clerk was thanked from the Chair for her hard work on increasing tenant occupancy.

RESOLVED: that the report be noted.

11/074. FEEDBACK FROM YEOVIL ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION BY THE REPRESENTATIVE FROM YEOVIL TOWN COUNCIL

The Yeovil Town Council representative who attended the Yeovil Allotment Association meeting gave the following feedback:

- Volunteers could assist with work on the allotment sites if materials are provided
- Allotment association members have their own insurance
- A new vehicle could be leased instead of purchased
- Plastic sheeting on vacant allotment plots could hold sheeting down but it was noted that tyres are not permitted on allotment sites or plots

It was noted that plastic sheeting secured down on one allotment site had been stolen. Suggestions were made about ways to secure the polythene sheeting including digging a shallow pit and back filling it over the edge, using sand bags/filling empty sand bags with soil, or using wooden pegs and rope.

The Yeovil Town Council representative confirmed that information had been fed back to the Allotment Association regarding the investigation into an additional employee to work with the existing Maintenance Operative.

RESOLVED: that the feedback be noted.

11/075. FEEDBACK FROM CO-OPTED NON-VOTING MEMBER

The Co-opted Non-voting member was not present.

11/076. GATES AND LAND ADJACENT TO PEN MILL HOTEL

The Deputy Town Clerk explained the land ownership which had been confirmed by Land Registry searches. The redevelopment of the junction had reduced the parcel of land owned by South Somerset District Council. The majority of the land under discussion and the old gates to the former football ground are in corporate ownership.

It was suggested that as South Somerset District Council would soon become the unitary authority, the matter be deferred until the unitary authority is established and the unitary ward member feel that it is appropriate to raise the issue in response to residents views.

RESOLVED: (1) that the information be noted; and (2) that no action be taken unless the ward member of the new unitary authority raises it.

11/077. RHS BIG SEED SOW

The Deputy Town Clerk informed the committee Yeovil Town Council and Yeovil in Bloom have signed up to RHS Big Seed Sow and that Yeovil in Bloom intends to hold a seed and bulb swapping event. Anyone can sign up to the RHS big seed sow individually. Cllr P Lock added that newsagents can remove seed packets from the front of unsold magazines before returning the magazines.

RESOLVED: that the report be noted.

11/078. FINANCIAL STATEMENT – DECEMBER 2022 AND JANUARY 2023

The Committee considered the Financial Statement for the period 1st December 2022 to 31st January 2023. A query was raised regarding the miscellaneous income line on the budget as it was at zero and the Deputy Town Clerk explained that no income had been received to date that could not be attributed to specific nominal codes.

RESOLVED: that the Financial Statement for the period 1st December 2022 to 31st January 2023 be approved.

Public Comment.

There were no members of the public and one member of the press present. No comments were made.

The meeting closed at 8.24pm.

Signed: (Chairman)

Date: