



Yeovil Town Council

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Minutes of the hybrid meeting of the Grounds and General Maintenance Committee held on Monday 3rd October 2022 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; A Richards; A Soughton and H Stonier and Mr M Roper (Co-opted Non-voting).

Members Present: Cllrs T Lock (Lyde Ward).

Members Present (Virtually): G Oakes (Lyde Ward) and J Snell (Westlands Ward).

In Attendance (in person): S Freemantle (Deputy Town Clerk); L Jones (Assistant Town Clerk); N Turnbull (Locality Officer – SSDC) and R Holbert (Maverick Skateparks Ltd).

In Attendance (virtually): T Isaacs (Locality Officer – SSDC)

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

7.00pm – Meeting Commenced.

11/030. ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN

It was proposed and seconded that Cllr P Lock be elected to serve as Vice Chairman of the Grounds and General Maintenance Committee for the municipal year 2022 to 2023.

11/031. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND TO CONSIDER THE REASONS GIVEN

Apologies for absence (*LGA 1972 s85(1)*) were received from Cllr E Potts Jones (conflicting engagement).

11/032. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr A Richards declared a personal interest in agenda items 11/030 (election of Vice Chairman) and a personal interest in agenda item 11/034 (Old Football Ground/Entrance Gates).

11/033. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The Committee approved as a correct record the Minutes of the previous meeting held on 11th July 2022, with one amendment – that the Cllr H Stonier returned to the meeting at 8.11pm.

RESOLVED: that with the addition of “8.11pm – Cllr H Stonier returned to the meeting” the Minutes of the meeting of the Grounds and General Maintenance Committee held on 11th July 2022 be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

11/034. OLD FOOTBALL GROUND/ENTRANCE GATES

The Committee discussed the old football ground and gates adjacent to the Pen Mill Hotel on Sherborne Road. It was agreed to do a fact-finding investigation. (*During the discussion Cllr G Oakes lost connection and left the meeting virtually for a few minutes*).

RESOLVED: (1) to note the matters; (2) to investigate the ownership and potential of the gates; and (3) to defer the matter of the land to a future meeting following further investigation.

7.37pm – Cllr G Oakes left the meeting and did not return.

11/035. LITTER AND DOG WASTE BINS

RESOLVED: to defer the matter to a future meeting of the Grounds and General Maintenance Committee as the Team Leader Landscaping and Small Works (SSDC) was unable to attend this rescheduled meeting.

11/036. PLAY AREA, SCHOOL’S OUT AND SKATE PARK UPDATE

The Committee considered the report by the Locality Officer (SSDC) and Terena Isaacs, Locality Officer (SSDC) explained that she was available to answer any questions with regard to the Play Area Report. Terena then summarised the “School’s Out” initiative and discussion took place regarding the publicity for the scheme and the intended targeted areas.

Nathan Turnbull (Locality Officer) and Russell Holbert (Maverick Skateparks Ltd) gave a presentation on the concept design of the skateparks and explained the benefits of the concrete surface both for users and ongoing maintenance. It was explained that funding had been sought from Yeovil Without Parish Council and Brympton Parish Council. Councillors suggested alternative funding bodies to apply to.

8.17pm – Cllr J Lock left the meeting

8.19pm – Cllr J Lock returned to the meeting

It was confirmed that there would be a zero tolerance to graffiti as the paint would compromise the effectiveness of the surface. It was also confirmed that the railings would be made good at the Yew Tree Skate Park site and that bins and benches at the sites would be improved.

8.20pm – Cllr H Stonier left the meeting

8.21pm – Cllr H Stonier returned to the meeting

It was confirmed that the Committee was happy for progress to be made on the concept designs.

RESOLVED: (1) to note the Play Area Update; (2) to note the information regarding the “School’s Out” scheme; and (3) that progress on the concept designs be made on Yew Tree and Milford Skate Parks.

8.23pm – The Locality Team Leader, N Turbull (SSDC) and R Holbert (Maverick Skateparks Ltd) left the meeting and did not return.

8.23pm – The Locality Team Leader, T Isaacs (SSDC) left the meeting virtually and did not return.

11/037. FEEDBACK FROM CO-OPTED NON-VOTING MEMBER

Mr M Roper stated that he wanted something done about the state of the plots and the state of the unlet plots. He cited particular problems with a tenant. He requested updates on unlet plots.

It was inappropriate to discuss details about individual plots/plotholders in a public meeting but the Assistant Town Clerk explained that she was happy to regularly meet with Mr Roper to discuss matters.

RESOLVED: to note the matter.

11/038. REPRESENTATIVES TO ATTEND ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION MEETINGS

The Deputy Town Clerk read out a letter from the Yeovil Allotment Association Secretary which explained that the Association is happy to accept one Councillor to the meeting and that two names are requested to be put forward so that Yeovil Allotment Association can choose which one is most suited. It was explained that the Councillor would have no voting right in the Association.

8.37pm – Cllr A Richards left the meeting

8.37pm – Cllr A Richards returned to the meeting

RESOLVED: (1) to note the matter; (2) that Cllr A Richards and Cllr P Lock be the representatives on behalf of Yeovil Town Council to attend the Yeovil Allotment Association meetings and that it be requested that they both attend.

11/039. FUTURE OF CO-OPTED NON-VOTING MEMBER

It was explained that the representatives selected in 11/038 to attend Yeovil Allotment Association meetings would negate the need for a Co-opted Non-Voting Member on the Grounds and General Maintenance Committee, and that Mr Roper had expressed in a previous meeting that he was not sure whether it was to Yeovil Allotment Association's benefit for the role to continue. Mr Roper confirmed that he was happy to continue in the role on condition that something constructive happens.

RESOLVED: (1) to note the matter; and (2) that the role of Co-opted Non-Voting member on the Grounds and General Maintenance Committee continue.

11/040. ALLOTMENT LETTING/AVAILABILITY REPORT

8.49pm – Cllr T Casey left the meeting

8.50pm – Cllr T Casey returned to the meeting

The Committee considered the report.

RESOLVED: that the report be noted; and (2) that the promotion of availability of plots be noted.

11/041. FINANCIAL STATEMENT – JUNE AND JULY 2022

The Committee considered the Financial Statement for the period 1st June to 31st July 2022.

RESOLVED: that the Financial Statement for the period 1st June to 31st July 2022 be approved.

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

8.53pm – Mr Manny Roper (Co-opted, Non-voting Member) left the meeting and did not return.

11/042. 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 11/043 and 11/044 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

11/043. SUNNINGDALE DOORSTEP GREEN TRACKWAY (CONFIDENTIAL)

The Committee considered the verbal report by the Deputy Town Clerk and it was requested that the suitability of a weed proof membrane be questioned.

RESOLVED: (1) to note the report; (2) to accept the quote of £2240 from South Somerset District Council; and (3) that due to urgency, the repair be approved and the necessity to seek alternative quotes for this work be waived as per the Financial Regulations.

11/044. ALLOTMENT NOTICE TO QUIT APPEAL UPDATE (CONFIDENTIAL)

The Committee considered the verbal report by the Deputy Town Clerk.

RESOLVED: to issue another Notice to Quit immediately.

The meeting closed at 9.26pm.

Signed: (Chairman)

Date: