



# Yeovil Town Council

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**Minutes of the hybrid meeting of the Grounds and General Maintenance Committee held on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> January 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 Soughton and H Stonier and Mr M Roper (Co-opted Non-voting).

**Committee Members Present (Virtually):** Cllr A Richards.

**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 five members of the public and no members of the press present. Members of The Friends of Sidney Gardens explained that they had attended to support initiatives to improve Sidney Gardens including disabled access, lighting, pathways, fencing and proposals for the wood from the cedar tree. The comments from The Friends of Sidney Gardens were noted and the Committee agreed that they would be passed on to the Specialist and Operational Manager – Horticulture (SSDC).

*7.05pm – Four members of the public left the meeting and did not return.*

**7.06pm** – Meeting Commenced.

## **11/055. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND TO CONSIDER THE REASONS GIVEN**

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

Apologies for absence were received from the Specialist and Operational Manager – Horticulture (SSDC) and the Team Leader Landscaping and Small Works (SSDC).

## **11/056. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

### **11/057. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING**

The Committee approved as a correct record the Minutes of the previous meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> November 2023.

**RESOLVED:** that the Minutes of the meeting of the Grounds and General Maintenance Committee held on 7<sup>th</sup> November 2023 be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

### **11/058.LITTER AND DOG WASTE BINS**

The representative from South Somerset District Council was not present, therefore it was agreed to defer this agenda item to a future meeting of the Grounds and General Maintenance Committee.

**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 meeting.

### **11/059.OPEN SPACES UPDATE**

The representative from South Somerset District Council was not present, therefore it was agreed to defer this agenda item to a future meeting of the Grounds and General Maintenance Committee.

**RESOLVED:** to defer the matter to a future meeting of the Grounds and General Maintenance Committee as the Specialist and Operational Manager (SSDC) was unable to attend this meeting.

### **11/060.SIDNEY GARDENS CEDAR TREE/ RAILINGS SUGGESTION**

The representative from South Somerset District Council was not present, therefore it was agreed to defer this agenda item to a future meeting of the Grounds and General Maintenance Committee.

**RESOLVED:** to defer the matter to a future meeting of the Grounds and General Maintenance Committee as the Specialist and Operational Manager (SSDC) was unable to attend this meeting.

### **11/061. ALLOTMENT LETTING/AVAILABILITY REPORT**

The Committee considered the report and images of the vacant plots were shared. The possibility of providing spraying and rotavating was discussed.

**RESOLVED:** (1) that the report be noted; and (2) that the cost of spraying and rotavating vacant plots be investigated.

**11/062. FEEDBACK FROM YEOVIL ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION FROM THE REPRESENTATIVE FROM YEOVIL TOWN COUNCIL**

Cllr P Lock explained that she had attended the Yeovil Allotment Association meeting and that it was well run and well attended. She explained that the suggestions had been raised at the Allotment Maintenance Working Party meeting and feedback from that meeting would be made in agenda item 11/065.

**RESOLVED:** (1) to note the matter; (2) to note the feedback from Cllr P Lock and to await further feedback as part of the Allotment Maintenance Working Party meeting agenda item.

**11/063. FEEDBACK FROM CO-OPTED NON-VOTING MEMBER**

Mr M Roper stated that it was most welcoming to have Cllr P Lock come to the Yeovil Allotment Association meeting.

**RESOLVED:** to note the feedback.

**11/064. FINANCIAL STATEMENT – OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER 2022**

The Committee considered the Financial Statement for the period 1<sup>st</sup> October to 30<sup>th</sup> November 2022.

**RESOLVED:** that the Financial Statement for the period 1<sup>st</sup> October to 30<sup>th</sup> November 2022 be approved.

**11/065. FEEDBACK FROM THE ALLOTMENT MAINTENANCE WORKING PARTY**

The Committee considered the verbal update from the Deputy Town Clerk. On consideration of the feedback from Yeovil Allotment Association, the Allotment Maintenance Working Party recommended to the Grounds and General Maintenance Committee that the possibility of recruiting someone to assist with allotment maintenance be investigated.

**RESOLVED:** (1) that the feedback be noted; and (2) that the possibility of a new post to assist with allotment maintenance be investigated.

**Public Comment.** There was one member of the public and no members of the press present.

*7.33pm – Mr M Roper and the member of the public left the meeting and did not return.*

**11/066. 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 11/067 and 11/068 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

**11/067. WALL ADJACENT TO ELIZABETH FLATS ALLOTMENT SITE (CONFIDENTIAL)**

The Committee considered the verbal report by the Deputy Town Clerk which was noted.

**RESOLVED:** that the update be noted.

**11/068. ELIZABETH FLATS PATHWAYS (CONFIDENTIAL)**

The Committee considered the verbal report by the Deputy Town Clerk and it was agreed to look into options.

**RESOLVED:** that options be investigated.

The meeting closed at 8.09pm.

Signed: ..... (Chairman)

Date: .....