



Yeovil Town Council

Town House
19 Union Street
Yeovil
Somerset
BA20 1PQ

Mayor: Cllr A Kendall
Chief Executive / Town Clerk: Amanda Card BA (Hons), FCPFA, BSc (Open)
01935 382424, www.yeovil.gov.uk
town.clerk@yeovil.gov.uk

Minutes of the hybrid meeting of the Leisure and Environment Committee held on Monday 11th November 2024 at 7.00pm 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 (Chairman); T Casey; E Hopkins; A Kendall; J Lock; T Lock; A Richards; A Soughton; and A Wilkes.

Also Present (in person): D Potten (co-opted, non-voting)

Committee Members Present (virtually): Cllr J Cabell

Members Also Present (in person): Cllrs Wes Read (Yeovil Summerlands Ward); Justice Jimba (Yeovil Summerlands Ward) (from 7.09pm)

In Attendance (in person): A Card (Town Clerk/CEO) S Freemantle (Deputy Town Clerk) and K Menday (Director of Leisure and Environment)

Public Comment. There were six members of the public present.

Three members of the public were present to represent Somerset Plant Based Council and provided a presentation.

One member of the public represented Yeovil Country Park and the Friends of Yeovil Country Park and advocated for the work of the country park, it's role in the community and cited the many awards received.

One member of the public representing Able2achieve, commended the work to date of Yeovil in Bloom and expressed support for the proposal by the Director of Leisure and Environment to move this initiative forward.

7.26pm – the members of the public left the meeting and did not return.

7.27pm – Meeting Commenced.

11/208. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND TO CONSIDER THE REASONS GIVEN

Apologies for absence were received from J Cabell (personal reasons) who joined virtually until 8.12pm and Cllr J Lowery (conflicting engagement). (LGA 1972 s85(1)).

RESOLVED: to accept the apologies with the reasons given.

11/209. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr J Lock declared a personal interest in the proposal regarding Yeovil Country Park agenda item 11/214 (Leisure and Environment Committee Update Report) due to employment of a family member at the Country Park. Cllr R Spinner declared a personal interest in the proposal regarding Yeovil Country Park 11/214 (Leisure and Environment Committee Update Report) due to employment of a family member at the Country Park.

Cllrs A Kendall, T Lock and W Read declared a personal interest in agenda item 11/216 (Proposed Green Infrastructure Plan for Yeovil) due to their committee membership of the Somerset Rights of Way Network.

Localism Act 2011 s33(b-e)

11/210. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The Committee approved as a correct record the Minutes of the previous meeting held on 9th September 2024.

RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the meeting of the Grounds and General Maintenance Committee held on 9th September 2024 be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

11/211. FEEDBACK FROM YEOVIL ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION BY THE REPRESENTATIVE FROM YEOVIL TOWN COUNCIL

Cllr Spinner explained that he had not been able to attend the recent meeting of the Yeovil Allotment Association, but that he was looking forward to attending next time.

RESOLVED: that the matter be noted.

11/212. FEEDBACK FROM CO-OPTED NON-VOTING MEMBER

The Co-opted Non-Voting member explained that tree maintenance was required on Goar Knap allotment site. It was confirmed that this would be investigated.

The Co-opted Non-Voting member also commented on the judging of the Best Kept Allotment Competition. In answer to his question, it was confirmed that there would not be a winter judging category this year.

RESOLVED: that the matter be noted.

11/213. MINUTES OF THE LAST YEOVIL IN BLOOM MEETINGS

The Committee considered the minutes of the last two meetings of the Yeovil in Bloom Steering Group which took place on 3rd June and 5th August 2024.

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the Yeovil in Bloom Steering Group meetings held on 3rd June and 5th August 2024 be noted.

11/214. LEISURE AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE UPDATE REPORT

The Committee considered the report by the Director of Leisure and Environment who was commended on her detailed and informative report. Discussion took place regarding the use of tools, the proposed audit of equipment and the monitoring of KPIs. It was confirmed that as kit needed replacing, electrical equipment would be considered.

RESOLVED: (1) that the report and the proposed reporting cycles be noted; and (2) that the use of an external Health and Safety specialist to perform an audit on policy and practice related to Health and Safety across the Council be approved.

11/215. UPDATE REPORT ON THE TRANSFER AND FUTURE OF THE IN BLOOM PROGRAMME

The Committee considered the report by the Director of Leisure and Environment.

RESOLVED: (1) that the report be noted and it be agreed to progress a new community led and sustainable approach to the In Bloom scheme; (2) that it be recommended to the Finance and Policy Executive Committee that a new community Growing Hub be established at the old ski centre site, incorporating a horticulture programme alongside a Biodiversity Net Gain offer for the site; and (3) that the proposed new roles for the new Open Spaces and In Bloom teams be agreed.

11/216. PROPOSED GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN FOR YEOVIL

The Committee considered the report by the Director of Leisure and Environment who summarised the report and outlined the submission of the Expression of Interest to the National Lottery Heritage Fund.

8.11pm – Cllr E Hopkins left the meeting.

The Director of Leisure and Environment answered questions regarding management plans for the sites and councillors discussed the possibility of approaching neighbouring parishes for funding however it was decided that this would not be practical at this stage.

8.12pm – Cllr J Cabell left the meeting (virtually).

8.13pm – Cllr E Hopkins returned to the meeting.

RESOLVED: (1) that the proposal be noted and supported; and (2) that progression and submission of a grant application to the National Lottery Heritage Fund be agreed if the Expression of Interest is successful.

11/217. BUDGET SETTING 2025/26

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

RESOLVED: (1) that the draft Leisure and Environment Committee Budget be supported; and (2) that it be referred to the Finance and Policy Executive Committee.

11/218. 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 11/219 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

11/219. MONKSDALE HEDGE (CONFIDENTIAL)

The Committee considered the report and discussions took place regarding the hedge and boundary.

RESOLVED: (1) to note the report; and (2) that the hedge be removed and replaced where necessary with close board fencing.

The meeting closed at 9.12pm.

Signed: (Chairman)

Date: