



Yeovil Town Council

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Minutes of the hybrid meeting of the Property & Community Committee 8th September 2026 at 7.00pm held by video-conference using Zoom meeting software; and in the Town House, 19 Union Street, Yeovil BA20 1PQ.

Present (in person): Cllrs R Stickland (Chair); T Casey; K Gill; A Kendall; T Lock; J Lowery; A Soughton; H Stonier and D Woan.

Present (virtually): Cllr A Richards

In Attendance (in person): A Card (Chief Executive / Town Clerk); T Cook (Director of Property & Community); E Marsh (Community Warden); and PCSO Supervisor Leanne Mountain (Avon and Somerset Police).

There was one member of the press present virtually and two members of the public present in person.

Public Comment

PCSO Supervisor Leanne Mountain from Avon and Somerset Police, provided an update on policing in Yeovil, advising that the neighbourhood team is currently well resourced, with 10 PCSOs, six police officers, a PCSO supervisor and a sergeant. She reported positive outcomes from increased staffing levels, which have enabled a greater visible presence and continued neighbourhood policing despite supporting response duties during the summer demand period. Members were informed of recent work to address antisocial behaviour, including action against youths engaging in "urban exploring" of vacant buildings, resulting in a dispersal notice being issued and follow up engagement with parents. Positive enforcement outcomes included the use of Criminal Behaviour Orders and a Community Protection Notice against individuals causing persistent issues, as well as the arrest and remand of a prolific shoplifter.

In response to members' questions, PCSO Supervisor Leanne Mountain advised that antisocial behaviour remains a key priority, alongside shoplifting and issues relating to e-scooters. Members raised concerns regarding early morning and evening antisocial behaviour in the town centre and at underpasses, with police acknowledging that neighbourhood officer visibility is more limited at those times but agreeing to consider additional patrols. It was also noted that county lines activity remains monitored, although it

is not currently considered to be at the levels seen in previous years. Members welcomed the increased police presence and observed a reduction in visible disorder within the town centre.

A member of the public addressed the Committee regarding a longstanding request for double yellow lines at the entrance to a cul-de-sac off St John's Road. It was explained that parked vehicles regularly obstruct access, creating significant road safety concerns, including near misses involving schoolchildren and restrictions on emergency vehicle access. The speaker advised that a Somerset Council officer had previously confirmed that a fire engine or ambulance would be unable to pass when vehicles were parked on both sides of the entrance. The proposal for double yellow lines had received support from 36 of the 44 households, with no objections received. A recent incident was also highlighted in which a van was parked for several hours in a position that blocked access, reinforcing the need for parking restrictions to ensure safe and unobstructed access for residents and emergency services.

7:15pm – The meeting commenced.

11/349 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND TO CONSIDER THE REASONS GIVEN

Council to receive apologies for absence and consider the reasons given. *LGA 1972 s85(1)*

Apologies were received from Cllrs W Read (conflicting engagement); and A Richards * (personal reasons).

**Legislation requires that Councillors need to be physically present at the meeting to be shown as present. If a Councillor is unable to attend in person but can attend virtually, then apologies for absence should be given.*

RESOLVED: to accept the apologies with the reasons given.

11/350 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr J Lowery declared a personal interest in agenda item 11/361 – Urgent Decision – Westlands Flood Prevention Measures, as her daughter is employed at the venue.

11/351 MINUTES

The Committee confirmed as a correct record the Minutes of the meetings held on 9th June 2026 and 3rd August 2026.

RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the meetings held on 9th June 2026 and 3rd August 2026 to be agreed and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

The Chair advised that, with the agreement of the Committee, he wished to bring forward the agenda item relating to the Council motion on e-scooters to enable discussion whilst the representative of Avon and Somerset Police was present. The item was therefore considered next in the meeting.

11/352 MOTION

Cllr T Lock introduced his motion which was seconded by Cllr R Stickland, regarding concerns over the misuse of privately owned e-scooters in Yeovil. He highlighted resident complaints about unsafe riding in parks, public spaces and on footpaths, particularly the risks posed to pedestrians, children and vulnerable people. The motion proposed that the Council write to the Secretary of State for Transport seeking clarification on the Government's position regarding the regulation and enforcement of privately owned e-scooters, copy correspondence to relevant agencies and elected representatives, and continue working with partners to improve awareness and public safety.

PCSO Supervisor Leanne Mountain acknowledged that e-scooters were a significant and growing issue both in Yeovil and across the force area. She advised that police had received numerous complaints, particularly in parks such as Birchfield Park and explained that enforcement was challenging due to difficulties identifying riders and safety considerations around stopping them. She reported that targeted operations, plain-clothes patrols and scooter seizures had taken place, with officers also focusing on educating riders and parents.

Members discussed the balance between enforcement and education, with several councillors noting that many members of the public appeared unaware that privately owned e-scooters are illegal to use in public places. Concerns were also raised regarding inconsistent understanding of enforcement and the need for stronger public awareness campaigns.

During the debate, councillors broadly supported the motion and emphasised the importance of both local action and national legislative clarification. An amendment was proposed and accepted, requesting that Avon and Somerset Police undertake targeted enforcement activity in areas where illegal or anti-social e-scooter use is regularly reported and provide information to the Council on enforcement activity and outcomes.

7:25pm – Cllr D Woan left the meeting.

7:29pm – Cllr D Woan returned to the meeting.

In closing, Cllr T Lock reiterated concerns about public confusion over enforcement and the need for greater clarity from Government and partner agencies. He also referred to a report from a member of the public who stated that a police officer had advised them that adults using e-scooters for commuting at around 15 mph were unlikely to be of enforcement interest. This was cited as an example of the uncertainty and mixed public understanding regarding enforcement.

The amended motion was put to the vote and carried.

RESOLVED: (1) that Yeovil Town Council writes to the Secretary of State for Transport outlining the concerns raised by residents regarding the misuse of privately owned e-scooters within Yeovil and the impact on public safety; (2) that Yeovil Town Council requests

information from the Government regarding its current position on the regulation and enforcement of privately owned e-scooters, including any proposed legislative changes; (3) that copies of the Council's correspondence be sent to the local Member of Parliament, the Police and Crime Commissioner, Avon and Somerset Police, and the Leader of Somerset Council; (4) that Avon and Somerset Police be requested to consider targeted enforcement activity in areas of Yeovil where the illegal use of privately owned e-scooters is regularly reported, and to provide the Council with information regarding any enforcement activity undertaken and its outcomes; and (5) that Yeovil Town Council continues to engage with relevant partner organisations to raise awareness of the legal position relating to privately owned e-scooters and to support initiatives that improve public safety within Yeovil.

7:44pm - PCSO Supervisor Leanne Mountain left the meeting and did not return.

11/353 DEFIBRILLATOR AND BLEEDKIT UPDATE

The Committee considered a report from the Admin Officer regarding defibrillators and bleed kits.

Members were advised of corrections to the access frequency figures reported for the Acorn and the Ninesprings Café defibrillators (as shown below) ; all other figures within the report were confirmed as correct.

Location	Go-Live Date	Frequency of access as at 9th June 2026	Frequency of access since 9th June 2026	Frequency of access to date
1. The Acorn	16/10/21	27	0	27
2. Ninesprings Café	14/01/22	4	0	4

The Committee noted that the Council currently has 20 operational defibrillators across Yeovil. A further defibrillator, previously located at Nationwide, is currently offline following Nationwide's installation of its own device as part of a national initiative. Officers are exploring alternative locations for the Council-owned unit.

RESOLVED: to note the report.

11/354 BUDGET MONITORING UPDATE

The Committee received the budget monitoring update. The Chief Executive/Town Clerk referred to the revised report that had been circulated following the identification and correction of formula errors affecting some comparative figures from previous years.

In response to a question regarding the Peter Street toilets, Members were advised that although the facility had been closed, some standing utility charges remained. However, water usage costs had reduced significantly and a reduction in overall expenditure was anticipated. It was further noted that the closure was expected to result in an underspend of just over £6,000 on cleaning costs.

RESOLVED: to note the report.

11/355 YMCA BRUNEL GROUP – YEOVIL YOUTH CLUBS

The Committee considered the YMCA Brunel Group report on its provision of youth clubs in Yeovil. Members noted that the report had been prepared by YMCA Brunel Group and provided an update on current activities and participation levels.

It was reported that attendance at the Milford youth provision remained strong and that participation at the Goldenstones youth club continued to grow. Members were also advised that the youth club programme was resuming following the summer break and that future reports would monitor whether these positive trends continued.

RESOLVED: to note the report.

11/356 COMMUNITY WARDEN UPDATE

The Committee considered the Community Warden update report prepared by the Director of Property & Community. They noted that a replacement Community Warden had been recruited following a recent resignation. Members were advised that the new appointee had previously worked within Somerset Council's environmental crime team and brought significant experience in environmental enforcement, community engagement and litter-picking initiatives.

Members received an update on the work of the Community Wardens, particularly within the town centre. The Committee heard that the town centre warden role had become well established, with positive feedback received regarding interventions undertaken to support businesses, address anti-social behaviour, assist vulnerable individuals and respond to community concerns. Examples were provided of preventative work, support for individuals requiring assistance, and engagement with young people to address inappropriate activities through education and positive intervention.

The Committee noted that a more detailed presentation from the town centre warden would be arranged for a future meeting due to his absence through illness.

Members received an update on the Council's summer Play Days programme. Four events were held across Yeovil at Yew Tree Park, Nine Springs Country Park, Milford and Birchfield, each featuring a different themed activity. Special features included a skate jam at Yew Tree Park, a music workshop at Nine Springs, a circus skills team at Milford and a petting farm at Birchfield. Approximately 2,000 people attended the events, which were considered highly successful. The Chair and Members expressed their appreciation to the officers and volunteers involved in organising and delivering the programme.

The Committee was further advised that plans were being developed for a community litter-pick in conjunction with World Cleanup Day and the town's Super Saturday event, with details to be announced in due course.

RESOLVED: to note the report.

11/357 CCTV – UPDATE AND SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT 2027 - 2030

The Committee considered the CCTV update report, which included both the quarterly performance information for the CCTV monitoring service and a proposed Service Level Agreement (SLA) for the period 2027 to 2030.

Members noted the CCTV performance statistics and discussed the value of the service. The Chair requested that future reports, where possible, include a breakdown distinguishing incidents identified proactively by CCTV operators from those where the police or other agencies requested CCTV assistance, to provide a clearer understanding of how the system was being used.

The Committee considered the draft SLA and noted a number of proposed improvements, including enhanced reporting arrangements, clearer compensation provisions where cameras are unavailable, improved communication, and greater input from partner authorities in setting monitoring priorities. Members were advised that the annual service cost would remain unchanged for the next financial year, although future increases could apply during the term of the agreement.

Members also noted concerns regarding proposed reductions in monitored operating hours and the potential implications for Council services and other partner organisations. It was suggested that further consultation with partner organisations be undertaken to understand any operational impacts before the agreement was finalised.

RESOLVED: (1) to note the report; and (2) to recommend to the Executive that Yeovil Town Council agrees the terms of the SLA with Somerset Council for 2027- 2030.

11/358 HEALTH & SAFETY – ACCIDENTS, INCIDENTS AND NEAR MISSES

The Committee considered the health and safety update report by the Director of Property & Community which covered accidents, incidents and near misses. Members were advised that the new reporting system was now in place and producing improved management information. It was noted that no incidents during the reporting period had met the threshold for RIDDOR reporting and that actions had been taken to address issues identified and reduce the likelihood of recurrence.

In response to a question regarding incidents involving staff actions, Members were advised that individual matters would be addressed through management processes where appropriate, while wider learning would be shared through team briefings and toolbox talks where common themes or trends were identified.

Members also queried the recording of an injury initially reported as an insect bite, which had subsequently been identified as a snake bite. Officers explained that the incident had been recorded based on the information available at the time and that the resulting actions taken were unchanged.

RESOLVED: to note the report.

11/359 HIGHWAYS REQUESTS - OUTCOMES

The Committee received a report outlining the outcomes of two recent highway-related requests and noted that these provided useful examples for shaping the Council's future approach. Members agreed that the Council should focus its involvement on proposals where there is clear evidence of local need and community benefit, whilst encouraging residents and divisional members to take a lead role in gauging local opinion. It was also noted that Community Wardens may be able to assist with engagement activities where appropriate.

Members discussed the importance of effective consultation and public engagement, highlighting the Chilton Grove consultation as a successful example of face-to-face engagement which achieved a high response rate and helped shape proposals based on local consensus. During discussion, Members requested that Somerset Highways be asked to consider extending the proposed double yellow lines at the entrance to the St John's Road cul-de-sac in response to ongoing parking concerns, and officers agreed to raise this as a supplementary request.

The Committee further discussed the need for clearer communication and guidance regarding highway requests, noting that residents are often uncertain whether to contact Somerset Council or Yeovil Town Council. Members supported the development of a clear framework outlining responsibilities, consultation stages and the process for progressing highway proposals. Concerns were also raised regarding the effectiveness of parking restrictions without adequate enforcement, with members noting that traffic management proposals are subject to several stages of consultation and approval by Somerset Council before implementation.

RESOLVED: to note the report.

8:23pm – the two members of the public left the room and did not return.

11/360 UPDATE ON ACTIONS AGREED – LOCAL MANAGEMENT OF THE TRIANGLE AND ASSOCIATED TOWN CENTRE ASSETS

The Committee received an update from the Chief Executive/Town Clerk on discussions with Somerset Council regarding the potential transfer and local management of the Triangle and associated town centre assets. Officers advised that initial discussions had commenced; however, clarification was still being sought regarding the associated costs and financial responsibilities, as the information provided to date had not been sufficiently clear.

Members were informed that further work was ongoing to assess the opportunities, costs and responsibilities connected with any potential transfer. It was noted that a further report would be brought back to the Committee once the necessary information had been obtained from Somerset Council, enabling Members to consider the matter fully and make any future decisions.

RESOLVED: (1) to note the report; and (2) to note the progress being made by officers in evaluating the potential transfer and management of the Triangle and associated town centre assets.

11/361 URGENT DECISION- WESTLANDS FLOOD PREVENTION MEASURES

The Committee received a report from the Director of Property & Community regarding an urgent decision taken to implement flood prevention measures at Westlands. Members were advised that the works were undertaken during the summer period in response to flooding issues experienced during recent extreme weather events, particularly those encountered in the previous year. Due to the urgency of the works, the decision was taken under the Council's urgent decision procedures following consultation with councillors.

It was explained that investigations had identified a drainage issue affecting the Westlands building, with rainwater runoff becoming trapped due to a blockage beneath the lounge area. As further investigation would have required significant disruption to Westlands' operations, an alternative solution was implemented, involving the installation of drainage around the exterior of the building.

Members were advised that the completed works were intended to protect the plant room and reduce the risks associated with flooding, including potential impacts on the operation of the venue and health and safety concerns.

RESOLVED: to note the report.

11/362 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 item 11/363 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

8:27 pm - The member of the press left the meeting and did not return.

11/363 1 OXFORD ROAD – PROGRESS REPORT (CONFIDENTIAL)

The Committee received a verbal report from the Property & Community Director providing an update on progress relating to the proposed occupation of 1 Oxford Road. Members were advised that negotiations remained ongoing and that officers were continuing to progress the legal, property and operational arrangements required to support the proposed move. A further report will be presented to Council at its meeting on 6th October 2026 for consideration of the final arrangements.

RESOLVED: to note the verbal update.

The meeting closed at 8:32pm.

Signed:

Dated: