



Yeovil Town Council

Town House
19 Union Street
Yeovil
Somerset
BA20 1PQ

Mayor: Cllr E Potts-Jones, Town Clerk: Amanda Card BA (Hons), CPFA, BSc (Open)
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Minutes of the meeting of Yeovil Town Council held on Tuesday 1st November 2022 at 7:30pm held by video-conference using Zoom meeting software; and in the Town House, 19 Union Street, Yeovil BA20 1PQ.

Present: Cllrs E Potts-Jones (Mayor); A Kendall; B Boyton; J Cabell; T Casey; N Gage; K Gill; E Hopkins; T Lock; J Lowery; S Lowery; G Oakes; A Richards; J Snell; A Soughton; R Stickland and H Stonier.

In Attendance: A Card (Town Clerk); L Jones (Assistant Town Clerk); Rev J Pearce (Mayor's Chaplain) and Peter Lewis (CEO of Somerset NHS Foundation Trust and Yeovil District Council).

There was 1 member of the public present in person and 1 member of the press present virtually.

Public Comment

Peter Lewis (CEO of Somerset NHS Foundation Trust and Yeovil District Council) gave an update on the progress of the merger of the two Trusts and the current NHS challenges.

- The aims are to:
 - Improve the health and wellbeing of the population;
 - Provide the best care and support to children and adults;
 - Strengthen care and support in local communities;
 - Reduce inequalities; and
 - Respond well to complex needs.
- There is an urgent need to address the following challenges:
 - Working within, and recovering services, following the COVID-19 pandemic;
 - Providing professional, and health and wellbeing support for our colleagues;
 - The ongoing impact of COVID-19 on our services;
 - Demand pressures across acute, community and mental health services
 - Workforce shortages – recruitment and retention; and
 - Whole system response.

- Merging our trusts:
 - Reasons for merger – focus on population health, better care, equity of access across the county, strength in unified joint approach, greater resilience where we face workforce shortages. Together we will provide acute services from Yeovil District Hospital and Musgrove Park Hospital; 13 community hospitals; community services, mental health and disability services across the county; and a quarter of Somerset’s GP practices;
 - Submitted business case and associated documents to regulator NHS England for its review; and
 - Planning to merge on 1 April 2023.

8:20 pm Peter Lewis and the member of the public left the meeting and did not return.

8:21 pm The meeting commenced.

11/036 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 K Hussain (work commitments); P Lock (personal reasons); J Lock (family member with COVID); W Read (work commitments); R Spinner (family members with COVID); L Watts (conflicting engagement) and D Woan (conflicting engagement).

RESOLVED: to accept the apologies with the reasons given.

11/037 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members to declare any interests, including Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPI) they may have in agenda items that accord with the requirements of the Town Council’s Code of Conduct and to consider any requests from members for Dispensations that accord with Localism Act 2011 s33(b-e). (NB this does not preclude any later declarations).

Councillor	Reason	Interest
Cllr A Kendall Cllr T Lock Cllr G Oakes Cllr W Read Cllr J Snell Cllr A Soughton	Member of: Somerset County Council South Somerset District Council	Personal
Cllr K Gill Cllr P Lock Cllr R Stickland	Member of: South Somerset District Council	Personal
Cllr E Potts-Jones Cllr D Woan	Member of: Somerset County Council	Personal

There were no other declarations at this time.

RESOLVED: to note the declarations.

10/038 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

To confirm as a correct record the minutes of the previous Town Council Meeting held on 6th September 2022. Cllr A Richards stated he attended this meeting virtually and requested that the minutes be amended.

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the previous Town Council Meeting held on 6th September 2022 and that they be signed as a correct record with the amendment that Cllr A Richards being in attendance.

11/039 MAYOR AND DEPUTY MAYOR'S RECENT AND FORTHCOMING ENGAGEMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor, Cllr E Potts-Jones highlighted on amendment on the recent and forthcoming engagements and announcements. The Yeovil Chamber Business Awards will now take place in December.

RESOLVED: to note the Mayor's and Deputy Mayor's recent and forthcoming appointments and engagements.

11/040 REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COMMITTEES AND OTHER MEETINGS

Planning Committee – 26th September 2022 and 17th October 2022

Presented by Cllr Jeny Snell. She gave an update regarding the Planning Committee meetings. There were no questions.

Promotions and Activities Committee – 27th September 2022

Present by Cllr Sarah Lowery. She updated Council that the Christmas Light Switch On would be ran by Radio Nine Springs. Super Saturday had been rescheduled to 10th December 2022. A two-day event will be held on 27th/28th May 2023 at Yeovil Recreation Ground.

A Councillor queried whether any cancellation fees had to be paid regarding the cancellation of Super Saturday in September following the death of the Queen. The Chair responded stating that there were some contractual obligations.

Grounds and General Maintenance Committee – 3rd October 2022

Both the Chair and Vice-Chair were not present.

Buildings and Civic Matters Committee – 4th October 2022

Presented by Cllr Rob Stickland. He informed the Council that Inspector Rachel Clark and Sergeant Dan Crawford attended the meeting to give an update on Community Policing Matters. He spoke of the defibrillator update and the update to the Civic Guide. The Death of a Senior Royal protocol was discussed, and that the Council are awaiting guidance to ascertain whether any modifications to the mace would be necessary.

8:35 pm Cllr B Boyton left the room.

8:36 pm Cllr B Boyton returned to the room.

Policy, Resources and Finance Committee – 11th October 2022

Presented by Cllr Graham Oakes. He spoke of the Public Participation policy and that possible GDPR issues were being investigated. He also spoke of the Civility and Respect Pledge and the LCN consultation. There were no questions.

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the above Committee be noted together with any resolutions and recommendations contained therein to be ratified.

11/041 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

Members who represent the Town Council on Outside Bodies were invited to take the opportunity to report on any matters of interest.

The minutes from the Crematorium & Cemetery held on 12th September 2022 had been circulated. Cllr R Stickland stated that he was happy to answer and questions. He thanked the managers at both the Crematorium and Cemetery for the recent tours that were given. There were no questions.

Cllr A Kendall informed Town Council that a group of people from Herblay as part of the Yeovil Twinning Association would be visiting Yeovil from 3rd November until 7th November.

Cllr A Kendall attended the Sea Cadet Corp attended the AGM and updated the Council with regards to the new facilities.

Cllr J Lowery informed Council that the Westfield Community Association next meeting would be on 4th November 2022 at 7:30pm at St Peters. The Christmas Fair is on 26th November from 10am to 3pm.

RESOLVED: to note the reports.

11/042 CONCLUSION OF AUDIT 2021/23

Councillors considered the conclusion of the audit carried out by the external auditors on the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) 2021/22.

RESOLVED: to note the conclusion of the audit and their opinion was that the AGAR had been completed in accordance with Proper Practices and no other matter had come to their attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements had not been met.

11/043 CIVILITY AND RESPECT PLEDGE

Councillors considered the Civility and Respect Pledge as recommended by the Policy, Resource and Finance Committee.

RESOLVED: (1) to adopt the Civility and Respect Pledge; and (2) to agree that the Town Clerk sign up for the pledge on behalf of Yeovil Town Council.

(voting: for:16, absention:1)

11/044 FORWARD PLAN

RESOLVED: to approve the forward plan as detailed within the agenda.

8:42 pm Cllr J Lowery left the room.

Public Comment

Since this was the first Full Town Council since the death of Her late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, the Mayor of Yeovil, Cllr E Potts-Jones led a minute's silence as a mark of respect. Following the silence, the Mayor of Yeovil, Cllr E Potts-Jones thanked the staff for all they had done during the period of national mourning and also to Rev J Pearce for cutting short his break to Cornwall.

8:43 pm Cllr J Lowery returned to the room.

The Mayor, Cllr E-Potts-Jones congratulated The Rt Hon Rishi Sunak MP for becoming the Prime Minister.

The Mayor, Cllr E-Potts-Jones invited the Councillors to join her in the Mayor's Parlour to toast the new King.

Meeting closed at 8:46 pm.

Signed:

Date: