



Yeovil Town Council

Town House
19 Union Street
Yeovil
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BA20 1PQ

Mayor : Cllr E Potts-Jones
Town Clerk : Amanda Card *CPFA, PSLCC, BA (Hons), BSc (Open)*
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Minutes of meeting of Yeovil Town Council held on Wednesday 2nd February 2022 at 7.30pm at Westlands Entertainment Venue, Westbourne Close, Yeovil BA20 2DD.

Present: Cllrs E Potts-Jones (Chairman and Mayor); J Dash; N Gage; K Gill; P Gubbins; D Gubbins; E Hopkins; G Hunting; K Hussain; A Kendall; M Lock; P Lock; T Lock; G Oakes; W Read; A Richards; J Snell; A Soughton; R Spinner and R Stickland.

In Attendance: A Card (Town Clerk); H Ferdinand (Deputy Town Clerk); Rev J Pearce (Mayor's Chaplain) and Neighbourhood Sergeant Daniel Crawford (Avon and Somerset Police).

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

Public Comment

Neighbourhood Sergeant Daniel Crawford (Avon and Somerset Police) introduced himself. He had recently been promoted and was responsible for neighbourhood policing in Yeovil. He stated that COVID-19 had been a challenge and as a result the Neighbourhood team had to change the way do their operations.

Cllr R Stickland requested that someone attended the Buildings and Civic Matters Committee meetings, Sergeant Crawford agreed to have a presence, either attending himself or sending someone else. Cllr R Stickland also mentioned the antisocial behaviour at the bench on Penn Hill, the Sergeant said he would ask the PCSOs to regularly patrol the bench.

Cllr P Gubbins asked how often the Middle Street was patrolled and expressed his concerns over the number of cyclists and electric scooters speeding through the town centre. Sergeant Crawford advised that the patrols were daily when the team were on duty. In terms of the scooters, he would be speaking to the Zwings about programming the e-scooters to prevent them from working in the town centre. He reiterated that only the e-scooters provided by Zwings should be used on the public highway and this was restricted to the road and also designated cycle paths. The police had seized a number of private scooters and had attempted to educate people about the usage.

Cllr K Hussain expressed his concerns about how the roads at West Hendford, Westminster Street and the High Street were not being used correctly. Sergeant Crawford said that the road could not be policed all the time and it was a Highways matter.

Cllr T Lock raised concerns about data being shared at public meetings, but Sergeant Crawford clarified it would only be information that was already in the public domain.

Cllr A Richards questioned why violent crime had increased and asked if Sergeant Crawford was aware of any contributory factors. Sergeant Crawford believed that it was due to the dismantling of a lot of County Lines which meant this has pushed some people into drinking more. He said that they would be using the Licensing Act to prevent shops from selling alcohol to intoxicated people and also selling higher strength alcohol. He said that they were trying to get to the route cause.

Sergeant Crawford stated that the CCTV in town was vital for their operations. He also said that he was open to any ideas or initiatives that Councillors had.

Cllr P Gubbins highlighted that South Somerset District Council were working extremely hard to make Yeovil a better place. Sergeant Crawford said that Yeovil Refresh would be a big benefit and they were also trying to work with the night-time economy to make Yeovil feel like a safer place.

The member of the press stated that it did not matter how much money was spent on Yeovil to make it look better if people did not feel safe.

8:10pm - The meeting commenced.

10/211 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 T Ledlie (conflicting engagement); J Lowery (personal engagement); S Lowery (unwell); and D Recardo (conflicting engagement).

RESOLVED: to accept the apologies with the reasons given.

10/212 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).

There were no declarations at this time.

10/213 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Members to confirm as a correct record the minutes of the previous Town Council Meeting held on 7th December 2021.

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the previous Town Council Meeting held on 7th December 2021 and that they be signed as a correct record.

10/214 MAYOR AND DEPUTY MAYOR'S RECENT AND FORTHCOMING ENGAGEMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

A question was raised about a potential engagement that was mentioned by Sergeant Crawford about the Mayor joining a nighttime economy exercise. The Mayor stated that she had not yet been officially invited, and the Clerk clarified that only engagements where official invites had been received could be listed as an engagement on the agenda. At the time of print, , an official invite had not yet been received for this specific engagement.

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

10/214 CORRESPONDANCE

An e-mail from Manny Roper was read out. He thanked Yeovil Town Council for their financial support in making the town a nicer place to live and visit. He also thanked the staff at South Somerset District Council for their hard work.

RESOLVED: to note the correspondence.

10/216 REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COMMITTEES AND OTHER MEETINGS

Planning Committee – 17th January 2022

Presented by Cllr Graham Oakes. There was just one application discussed at this meeting – Acacia Lodge. There were 165 members of the public at the meeting. It was resolved to raise an objection to application 21/02466/COU at Acacia Lodge, Hendford Hill, Yeovil on the grounds that the application for the proposed change of use would, a) have a detrimental impact on neighbouring amenities and the Conservation Area, and b) result in fear of crime in the community. There were no questions.

Promotions and Activities Committee – 8th January 2022

Both the Chair and Vice Chair of this Committee had sent apologies. One Councillor suggested that a statement should have been sent by the Chair about what had happened at this meeting. It was pointed out that the minutes for this meeting had been circulated and were readily available on the website.

Grounds and General Maintenance Committee – 7th January 2022

Presented by Cllr Royston Spinner. Discussions were held including issues of blocked drains near an allotment site; a request from an allotment holder to be exempt from paying water charges. There were no questions.

Buildings and Civic Matters Committee – 18th January 2022

Presented by Cllr Rob Stickland. He gave an update on the defibrillator projects and on the bench at Penn Hill. One Councillor questioned about the Town House sign and why it was not

mounted on the wall. The Deputy Town Clerk (HF) informed Council that now that listed building consent had been granted, the sign was on order. There were no further questions.

Policy, Resources and Finance Committee – 25th January 2022

Presented by Cllr Graham Oakes. He spoke of the budget setting process and thanked the officers for all their work for refining it. He stated that a grant of £1,500 had been awarded to Yeovil Shop Mobility and that this sent a clear message to people that Yeovil welcomes people with disabilities. The Committee had also agreed that Co-opted members could now claim travelling and subsistence allowance. 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.

10/217 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.

Yeovil Crematorium and Cemetery Committee – 12th January 2022 (minutes previously circulated). Presented by Cllr Tony Lock. The budget for the Yeovil Crematorium and Cemetery Committee for 2022/23 was approved. He stated that the Committee were awaiting feedback regarding South Somerset District Council providing technical support on a report about the suitability of the Fiveways land for burial purposes so that the Cemetery could be extended. He also spoke of receiving quotes for replacing gates at the Cemetery for health and Safety reasons. The Clerk (who is also Clerk to the Yeovil Crematorium and Cemetery Committee) clarified that hardwood gates had been agreed as they were in keeping with the Cemetery. She also clarified that there was no officer available at South Somerset District Council to provide the technical support and she was awaiting a quotation from an expert to be able to do required assessment of the technical report on behalf of the Yeovil Crematorium and Cemetery Committee.

10/218 BUDGET 2022/23

Members to approve the recommendation by the Policy, Resources and Finance Committee for setting Yeovil Town Council's precept for 2022/23 for £1,273,440 as set out in the Meeting of that Committee held on 25th January 2022. This would result in an increase on a Band D charge of £13.28 per year (25p per week) and increase from £129.31 to £142.59.

RESOLVED: to approve Yeovil Town Council's precept for 2022/23 as £1,273,440, resulting in an increase on a Band D charge of £13.28 per year (25p per week) and increase from £129.31 to £142.59.

*(Voting: 19 for; and 1 against)**

** For (Cllrs E Potts-Jones; A Kendall; J Dash; K Gill; P Gubbins; D Gubbins; E Hopkins; G Hunting; K Hussain; M Lock; P Lock; T Lock; G Oakes; W Read; A Richards; J Snell; A Soughton; R Spinner and R Stickland); Against (Cllr N Gage)*

10/219 RISK STRATEGY

Members considered the Risk Strategy and Risk Assessment for 2021/22 which had been recommended by the Policy, Resources and Finance Committee.

RESOLVED: to approve and adopt the Risk Strategy and Risk Assessment for 2021/22.

(voting: unanimous)

10/220 GRANT TO CITIZENS ADVICE (URGENT BUSINESS)

Members considered the report by the Town Clerk regarding the motion for a grant award of £5,080 to Citizens Advice to assist in the increase in caseloads following COVID-19, energy price increases and food price increases. This had been agreed in accordance with Standing Orders, paragraph 4d(xiv) 'Urgent Business'. There is a requirement to report to this meeting.

RESOLVED: (1) to note the report; and (2) that the use of Standing Orders, paragraph 4d(xiv) 'Urgent Business' be noted.

10/221 PROGRAMME OF MEETINGS 2022/23

RESOLVED: to adopt the programme of meetings for 2022/23.

10/222 FORWARD PLAN

It was suggested to invite the Chief Executive from Yeovil District Hospital to give an update on the potential merger with Musgrove Park. An update about Yeovil Refresh was also requested.

RESOLVED: to approve the forward plan with the above-mentioned additions.

Public Comment

Cllr Tony Lock referred to the Grant to the Citizens Advice Bureau and that increases in budget were necessary to assist those in need. He mentioned the computers for schools and the defibrillators as initiatives which helped the people of Yeovil.

Cllr K Hussain raised concerns about Yeovil Refresh and MIDAS going into administration.

The meeting closed at 8.42pm.

Signed:

Date: