



# Yeovil Town Council

Town House  
19 Union Street  
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Mayor : Cllr E Potts-Jones  
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## Minutes of the virtual meeting (informal) of Yeovil Town Council held on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2021 at 7.30pm held by video-conference using Zoom meeting software.

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

**In Attendance:** A Card (Town Clerk); T Reese (Somerset Bus Partnership) and Rev J Pearce.

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

### Public Comment

Tony Reese from Somerset Bus Partnership gave a presentation about the Somerset's Bus Service Improvement Plan. The Somerset Bus Partnership is Somerset's county-wide bus campaigning group who were formed following the publication of the Government's National Bus Strategy. There is £3billion country wide to be spent on improving bus services and grant awards will be made for exciting innovative plans. There is a consultation, to which all Councillors are asked to respond.

*8:05pm – Tony Reese left the meeting and did not return. The meeting commenced.*

### **10/186 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 J Dash (work commitment); P Gubbins (conflicting engagement); J Lowery (Personal); and S Lowery (work commitment).

**RESOLVED:** to accept the apologies with the reasons given.

### **10/187 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).

Cllrs; K Gill; D Gubbins; K Hussain; A Kendall; M Lock; P Lock; T Lock; G Oakes; W Read; D Recardo; A Soughton; and R Stickland declared a that they were District Councillors.

## **10/188 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

Members to confirm as a correct record the minutes of the previous Town Council Meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> June 2021.

**RESOLVED:** that the minutes of the previous Town Council Meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> June 2021 and that they be signed as a correct record at the next appropriate opportunity.

## **10/189 MAYOR AND DEPUTY MAYOR'S RECENT AND FORTHCOMING ENGAGEMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There was one correction to the engagements. The Mayor of Yeovil, Cllr E Potts-Jones did not attend the 100<sup>th</sup> year Anniversary of the War Memorial Ceremony.

**RESOLVED:** to note the Mayor's and Deputy Mayor's recent and forthcoming appointments and engagements with the above mentioned amendment..

## **10/190 REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COMMITTEES AND OTHER MEETINGS**

**Planning Committee** – 12<sup>th</sup> April 2021 / 17<sup>th</sup> May 2021 / 14<sup>th</sup> June 2021/ 12<sup>th</sup> July 2021/ 16<sup>th</sup> August 2021.

Presented by Cllr Graham Oakes and Gordon Hunting. There were no questions.

**Promotions and Activities Committee** – 18<sup>th</sup> May 2021 / 13<sup>th</sup> July 2021.

Presented by Cllr David Recardo. There were no questions.

**Grounds and General Maintenance Committee** – 24<sup>th</sup> May 2021 / 19<sup>th</sup> July 2021.

Presented by Cllr Andrew Kendall. There were no questions.

**Buildings and Civic Matters Committee** – 25<sup>th</sup> May 2021 / 20<sup>th</sup> July 2021.

Presented by Cllr Rob Stickland. There were no questions.

**Policy, Resources and Finance Committee** – 26<sup>th</sup> May 2021 / 27<sup>th</sup> July 2021.

**RESOLVED:** that the minutes of the above Committee be noted together with any resolutions and recommendations contained therein but to be ratified at a future meeting of the Town Council.

## **10/191 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** – 14<sup>th</sup> July 2021 (minutes previously circulated).

**RESOLVED:** to not the update.

## **10/192 CONCLUSION OF AUDIT 2020/21**

Councillors considered the conclusion of the audit carried out by the external auditors on the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) 2020/21.

**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.

### **10/193 FUTURE PARISH ELECTIONS**

Somerset County Council and the One Somerset team have asked Somerset Association of Local Councils (SALC) to seek views on when the next parish and town council ordinary elections should be held.

Town and Parish Council's next ordinary elections are due to take place in May 2023. Normally, these would have coincided with the next district council elections, thus reducing the cost to the parish of holding an election. However, the creation of a new unitary authority means that elections to the shadow authority will now be held in May 2022 and there will be no principal authority elections in 2023. For those parishes and towns that have contested elections, this could lead to a significant increase in election costs; especially for smaller parishes with limited resources.

Discussions were held regarding costs of elections and budgets.

It was proposed and seconded that Yeovil Town Council support an election in May 2022. A named vote was requested.

**RESOLVED:** (1) to agree that Yeovil Town Council support an election in May 2022; (*Voting: 18 for; and 1 abstention*) \*; and (2) that the Town Clerk inform Somerset Association of Local Councils of the Yeovil Town Council's view.

*\* For (Cllrs E Potts-Jones; A Kendall; N Gage; K Gill; D Gubbins; E Hopkins G Hunting; K Hussain; M Lock; P Lock; T Lock; G Oakes; W Read; D Recardo; A Soughton; R Spinner; R Stickland and H Stonier); Abstention (Cllr T Ledlie).*

### **10/194 FORWARD PLAN**

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

#### **Public Comment**

The Mayor thanked Council for their attendance and support at local events.

The meeting closed at 8:43pm.

Signed:

Date: