



Yeovil Town Council

Town House
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Yeovil
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Mayor : Cllr E Potts-Jones
Town Clerk : Amanda Card CPFA, PSLCC, BA (Hons), BSc (Open)
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Minutes of the virtual meeting (informal) of Yeovil Town Council held on Tuesday 7th December 2021 at 7.30pm held by video-conference using Zoom meeting software.

Present: Cllrs A Kendall (Chairman and Deputy Mayor); N Gage; K Gill; P Gubbins; G Hunting (until 8:12pm); K Hussain; T Ledlie; M Lock; P Lock; T Lock; J Lowery; S Lowery; G Oakes; D Recardo; A Richards; A Soughton; R Spinner and R Stickland.

In Attendance: A Card (Town Clerk); H Ferdinand (Deputy Town Clerk); Dr C Brand (Programme Director – New Somerset Council); Cllr F Purbrick (Somerset County Council's Cabinet Member for Transformation and Local Government Re-organisation); Sara Skirton (Somerset County Council - Customer, Community and Partnership Workstream) Lead and Rev J Pearce.

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

Public Comment

Dr Carlton Brand, Cllr Faye Purbrick and Sara Skirton from Somerset County Council gave a presentation about the "New Somerset Council", Local Government Reorganisations and Local Community Networks (LCNs). An explanation was given that the election would take place in 2022, as will the Towns and Parish Councils. This would be for a 5-year term using the Continuing Authority model. Thereafter the elections would be for a 4-year term. The concept of the LCN was explained. A number of the LCN's would be created around natural communities, giving local governance. Each LCN would assess the priorities specific to their communities. There were some pilots in place to look at various themes; Wincanton, Bruton and Castle Cary – Health and Wellbeing; Bridgwater – assets and service devolution; and From Area – Children, Young People and Families.

8:24pm - The meeting commenced.

10/203 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 E Potts-Jones (conflicting engagement); D Gubbins (work commitments); E Hopkins (unwell); G Hunting (conflicting engagement); and W Read (work commitments).

RESOLVED: to accept the apologies with the reasons given.

10/204 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.

10/205 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Members to confirm as a correct record the minutes of the previous Town Council Meeting held on 2nd November 2021.

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the previous Town Council Meeting held on 2nd November 2021 and that they be signed as a correct record at the next appropriate opportunity.

10/206 MAYOR AND DEPUTY MAYOR'S RECENT AND FORTHCOMING ENGAGEMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Cllr A Kendall – Deputy Mayor thanked the Council for the support of his motion which was to award a grant of £5,080 to the Citizens Advice South Somerset to recognise the increase in the number of cases that the Citizens Advice deal with for the following reasons: the pandemic, the increase in energy prices and an increase in food needs.

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

10/207 REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COMMITTEES AND OTHER MEETINGS

Planning Committee – 15th November 2021

This meeting was cancelled due to insufficient planning applications.

Promotions and Activities Committee – 9th November 2021.

Presented by Cllr David Recardo. An update was given from Somerset Diverse Communities regarding the Yeovil Together event. Sponsorship had been given for the Lantern Parade kits – the Lantern Parade will take place on 17th December at 5:30pm at St John's Church. Discussions were held regarding a blogging proposal. Staff were congratulated regarding the successful Super Saturday. Comments were made regarding the appropriateness of the blogging.

Grounds and General Maintenance Committee – 8th November 2021.

Presented by Cllr Royston Spinner. Discussions were held regarding issues of the skate parks redevelopment, allotment rent review and issues on allotments. There were no questions.

Buildings and Civic Matters Committee – 16th September 2021.

Presented by Cllr Rob Stickland. He gave an update on the defibrillator projects and mentioned that although not used, each of the defibrillators had been accessed. There had been excellent feedback regarding the Remembrance Sunday video. There were no questions.

Policy, Resources and Finance Committee – 23rd November 2021.

Presented by Cllr Graham Oakes. He reported that the grants policy had been changed, with the significant changes being that individuals could now apply and that organisations could reapply after 2 years. A Service Level agreement had been agreed with YMCA Brunel for detached and outreach work, in addition to the Youth Clubs. Council and Committees would run in their current format and be reviewed again in another 4 months. There were no questions.

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.

10/208 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.

There were no reports.

10/209 DRAFT BUDGET 2022/23

Cllr Oakes suggested that the New Initiatives Budget be increased by £4,700 to £15,000 which would fund a range of schemes that will be coming up in the next financial year. The New Initiatives would still need to be approved. This means that the total budget requirement would be £1,275,372.

RESOLVED: to approve the draft budget (including the additional £4,700) for the financial year 2022/23 (subject to receiving the tax base from South Somerset District Council for 2022/23; and the Crematorium and Cemetery Committee final budget);

*(Voting: 16 for; and 1 against)**

** For (Cllrs A Kendall; K Gill; P Gubbins; K Hussain; T Ledlie; M Lock; P Lock; T Lock; J Lowery; S Lowery; G Oakes; D Recardo; A Richards; A Soughton; R Spinner and R Stickland);
Against (Cllr N Gage)*

10/210 FORWARD PLAN

Cllr D Recardo suggested an update from the new CEO at Yeovil Hospital and will forward the Clerk the details. Suggestions were made regarding Yeovil Carnival and Yeovil Twinning Association.

RESOLVED: to approve the forward plan.

Public Comment

The member of the press expressed that he thought that the potential new initiative involving the old Yeovil football ground would be a particularly good initiative if it goes ahead.

The meeting closed at 8:57pm.

Signed:

Date: