



Yeovil Town Council

Town House
19 Union Street
Yeovil
Somerset
BA20 1PQ

Mayor: Cllr T Lock
Chief Executive / Town Clerk: Amanda Card BA (Hons), FCPFA, BSc (Open)
Tel: 01935 382424, Website : www.yeovil.gov.uk
E-mail: town.clerk@yeovil.gov.uk

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Yeovil Town Council (Reconvened) held on Tuesday 12th May 2026 at 7:30pm held by video-conference using Zoom meeting software; and in the Town House, 19 Union Street, Yeovil BA20 1PQ.

Present: Cllrs T Lock (Mayor); B Boyton; J Cabell; T Casey; K Gill; E Hopkins; K Hussain; A Kendall; J Lock; J Lowery; G Oakes; K Parsons; A Richards; W Read; A Soughton; R Spinner; R Stickland; H Stonier; R White; and D Woan.

Presen (virtually): Cllr J Snell

In Attendance (in person): A Card (Chief Executive/Town Clerk); L Ryder (Assistant Town Clerk); and D Recardo (Mace Bearer).

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

Public Comment

A member of the public (and Vice Chair of Yeovil Without Parish Council) addressed councillors to express support for the creation of a joint working group involving local councils and stakeholders. The purpose of the group would be to seek a direct meeting with the regional health body to discuss concerns about proposed changes to local healthcare services, particularly the future of a stroke unit. The speaker emphasised that a collaborative approach could help challenge aspects of the proposals, identify any weaknesses, and present new evidence, potentially strengthening any further escalation. They also highlighted the importance of acting proactively and not missing the opportunity for constructive engagement. A brief personal example was shared to illustrate concerns about access to hospital services, particularly in relation to travel and delays.

The next member of the public thanked the Council for the opportunity to speak and welcomed the joint working approach with neighbouring councils on the issue. They highlighted ongoing community campaigning regarding proposed changes to the local stroke unit and urged councillors to act promptly, stressing that plans to relocate services elsewhere were likely to proceed unless challenged. They noted growing support from other local councils and emphasised the potential impact on patient outcomes, particularly given the time-critical nature of stroke treatment. The speaker encouraged the Council to pursue engagement not only with

the relevant health authority but also with the local NHS trust, to demonstrate strong community opposition and advocate for retaining local services.

7:38 pm *The meeting commenced.*

11/341 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 Jimba (unwell); E Potts-Jones (conflicting engagement); and J Snell* (family commitments).

**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.

11/342 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 E Potts-Jones Cllr W Read Cllr J Snell Cllr A Soughton Cllr D Woan	Member of: Somerset Council	Personal

Cllrs T Lock; W Read; A Soughton; D Woan; and R White declared a personal interest in item 11/345 – Correspondence relating to 40th Anniversary of the Helicopter Speed Record, as they had all previously worked at Leonardo.

Cllr E Hopkins declared a personal interest in item 11/345 – Correspondence relating to 40th Anniversary of the Helicopter Speed Record, as she currently works at Leonardo.

Cllr J Lowery declared a personal interest in item 11/351 – PWLB Loan Application for Borrowing Approval – Octagon Theatre Project as her daughter works at Westlands Entertainment Venue.

Cllr J Cabell declared a personal interest in item 11/350 – Hyper Acute Stroke Unit (HASU) in that she works for Somerset Foundation Trust.

Cllr R White declared a personal interest in item 11/350 – Hyper Acute Stroke Unit (HASU) in that she is a member of the Quicksilver Community Group.

Cllr R Stickland declared a personal interest in item 11/350 – Hyper Acute Stroke Unit (HASU) as he is the Chair of Yeovil Without Parish Council. He also declared the same interest in respect of any other items on the agenda where Yeovil Without Parish Council may be referenced.

Cllr A Kendall declared a personal interest in item 11/350 – Hyper Acute Stroke Unit (HASU) due to his personal experience of having previously suffered a stroke. He also declared a personal interest in item 11/352 – Planning. He is also a member of Somerset Council's Planning Committee – South, and whilst he might speak and possibly vote on applications which might be referred to that Council for determination, he would reconsider such applications at that level taking into account all relevant evidence and representations made at that tier.

At this point, a Councillor raised a concern regarding whether the Annual Meeting of Yeovil Town Council held on 5th May 2026 had been lawfully convened, specifically questioning whether the required number of clear days' notice had been provided in light of the intervening bank holiday. It was suggested that this could have implications for the validity of the current meeting, as it followed from the earlier one. In response, the Chief Executive/Town Clerk advised that the agenda had been issued earlier than usual to account for the bank holiday and confirmed that, in their view, the statutory requirement of three clear days' notice had been met, with the agenda having been circulated on 28th April 2026.

11/343 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

To confirm as a correct record the minutes of the previous Town Council Meeting held on 7th April 2026.

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the previous Town Council Meeting held on 7th April 2026 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

11/344 MAYOR AND DEPUTY MAYOR'S RECENT AND FORTHCOMING ENGAGEMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

11/345 CORRESPONDENCE

Council considered the correspondence received from the Project Leader of the Speed Record Team of 1986 regarding the 40th Anniversary of the Helicopter Speed Record.

A councillor expressed support for marking the anniversary of a notable helicopter speed record, highlighting its significance to the town's heritage. It was noted that the initiative had been discussed previously with officers and was considered a positive project for the Town Council to support, with timescales being important.

RESOLVED: (1) to note the correspondence; and (2) to agree to work in partnership with relevant stakeholders to deliver a project to install a commemorative plaque marking the 40th Anniversary of the Helicopter World Speed Record.

Following this, additional correspondence was briefly referenced relating to the Hyper Acute Stroke Unit, with Members agreeing to defer discussion of a related item to a later agenda item.

11/346 ANNUAL REPORT 2025/26

Council considered the Annual Report for 2025/26 which outline the achievements of Yeovil Town Council during 2025/26.

RESOLVED: to note the Annual Report for 2025/26

11/347 APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES

Council considered the appointment and constitution of committees for 2026/27.

It was noted that in accordance with Standing Order 4(d)(xi), that the Service Committees needed to reflect the political balance of the Council.

RESOLVED: that the members indicated in Appendix A be appointed to serve on the Service Committees shown.

Council then considered the appointment and membership of Finance & Policy Executive.

It was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED: that the Finance & Policy Executive be appointed comprising of the following membership:

Mayor (Ex-Officio) *

Deputy Mayor (Ex-Officio) *

Chair of the Finance & Policy Executive

Infrastructure (Property & Assets) (Chair and Nominee)

Leisure & Environment Committee (Chair and Nominee)

Culture, Events & Promotions Committee (Chair and Nominee)

2 x Representatives of Leading Party Group

Representative(s) of Opposition Groups;

Council then considered the election of the Chair of the Finance & Policy Executive for 2026/27.

RESOLVED: that Cllr A Soughton be elected Chair of the Finance & Policy Executive for 2026/27.

At 7:50pm Council then agreed to adjourn the meeting to enable the four Service Committees to meet and elect their respective Chairs and Vice Chairs for 2026/27 (details of which are shown in Appendix A) and to appoint their representative to serve on the Finance & Policy Executive.

The meeting was further adjourned to enable the Finance & Policy Executive to meet and elect their Vice Chair for 2026/27.

On resumption of the meeting at 7:59pm, the Town Council considered the re-appointment of various Sub-Committees and Working Parties.

RESOLVED:

- (1) that representatives of the Opposition Groups be appointed for consultation purposes under the Council's Emergency Procedure (Standing Order 4 (d) (xiv)) and that the member of representing the Independents be Cllr T Casey and that the member of representing the Green Party be Cllr A Richards. *(Note: in accordance with the Scheme of Delegation – the Chair of the Committee concerned (or, in their absence, the Vice Chair) and the Mayor (or in their absence, the Deputy Mayor) will also be consulted);*
- (2) that the following be Members be appointed to serve on the Staffing Committee for the ensuing year: Cllrs T Casey; T Lock; G Oakes; A Soughton; H Stonier; R Stickland and A Wilkes.
- (3) that the following Members be appointed to serve on the Monmouth Hall Working Party for the ensuing year: Cllrs B Boyton; T Lock; G Oakes; and R Stickland;
- (4) that the following Members be appointed to serve on the Goldcroft Working Party for the ensuing year: Cllrs K Gill; A Kendall; A Soughton and R Stickland; and
- (5) that the following Members be appointed to serve on the Climate Control Working Party for the ensuing year: Cllrs T Casey; K Gill; A Kendall; J Snell; and A Soughton.

11/348 APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES TO SERVE ON OUTSIDE BODIES FOR 2025/26

Council considered the appointment of representative to serve on Outside Bodies for the ensuing year.

RESOLVED: (1) that the Members indicated be appointed to serve as representative of the Town Council for 2026/27 on the Outside Bodies identified at Appendix B to these Minutes; (2) that appointed Members submit reports via the Chief Executive/Town Clerk for circulation to all Councillors, and that they report back to future Town Council meetings.

11/349 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 from representatives on Outside Bodies.

11/350 HYPER ACUTE STROKE UNIT (HASU)

The Council considered correspondence from Yeovil Without Parish Council regarding the future of the Hyper Acute Stroke Unit (HASU) and agreed to support a collaborative approach. Members discussed the need to work jointly with neighbouring councils and stakeholders to scrutinise proposals, challenge the evidence behind potential changes, and advocate for retaining local stroke services.

8:07pm – Cllr J Lock left the meeting.

8:09pm – Cllr J Lock returned to the meeting.

The Chief Executive/Town Clerk confirmed that there was no further update currently available regarding the Freedom of Information route.

RESOLVED: (1) to note the report; (2) to agree to participate in the formation of a working group, with Cllrs G Oakes; K Parsons; and A Soughton being appointed as Yeovil Town Council representatives; and (3) that the working group be clerked and supported administratively by the Clerk of Yeovil Without Parish Council.

11/351 PWLB LOAN APPLICATION FOR BORROWING APPROVAL – OCTAGON THEATRE PROJECT

A councillor attempted to raise a point of order, stating that a business case document held by Somerset Council had not been made available during a previous borrowing decision and that this affected the integrity of the decision-making process. Another councillor challenged the validity of the point of order on procedural grounds, noting that the relevant standing order had not been cited. The Chair responded that matters relating to another authority were outside the Council's remit and reaffirmed that the borrowing decision had been properly made by the Council. He referred Members back to the agenda item.

A councillor expressed thanks to officers for the significant additional work undertaken in support of the project, acknowledging the effort involved and the importance of the work to the Council's objectives. The Chief Executive/Town Clerk confirmed that extensive information had been compiled and shared transparently as part of the application process, which remains ongoing, with additional information requested by the Secretary of State office. The Chair concluded by recognising the complexity of the matter and the collective efforts of officers and Members, noting that work is still ongoing, and proposed that the report be formally noted, with thanks to staff recorded.

RESOLVED: to note the report.

11/352 PLANNING

Council considered the planning applications and matters.

(a) APPLICATIONS LIST

	APPLICATION NO. Parish Ward	Applicant	Site Address	Proposal	Resolutions
1	26/00668/ADV <i>Westlands</i>	Mr Babajide Oyekan	Footbridge Queensway Footbridge Yeovil Somerset	Display of two static non-illuminated advertising panels, each measuring 16m (W) x 2m (H), mounted to either side of the existing pedestrian footbridge parapet over the A30 Queensway	Support, no material planning concerns
<i>8:30pm – Cllr K Hussain left the room</i>					
2	26/00801/FUL <i>Grove Avenue</i>	Mr M Ghuman	35 Preston Road Yeovil Somerset BA21 3AE	Change of use, conversion and extension and alterations of existing detached house to create an HMO	Support, design and appearance acceptable subject to the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• a licence may be required under the Housing Act 2004• environmental health be consulted in respect of fire safety and waste management arrangements
3	26/00669/HOU <i>Westlands</i>	Ms Amanda Gorman	Penn Park House 6 Penn Hill Park Yeovil Somerset BA20 1SE	Renovation of existing dwelling to include external wall insulation, reduced window sizes, balustrade alterations, two small infill extensions, new balcony and replacement garage and garden room	Support, design and appearance acceptable
<i>8:33pm – Cllr K Hussain returned to the meeting</i>					
4	26/00834/HOU <i>Westlands</i>	Mr & Mrs Taylor	36 Forest Hill Yeovil Somerset BA20 2PH	Proposed rear single storey extension	Support, design and appearance acceptable

5	26/00869/FUL <i>Westlands</i>	Mr Kevin Lark	27B Vicarage Walk Yeovil Somerset BA20 1EX	Installation of new shopfront, entrance doors and fascia signage	Support, design and appearance acceptable
6	26/00870/ADV <i>Westlands</i>	Mr Kevin Lark	27B Vicarage Walk Yeovil Somerset BA20 1EX	Display of 1No new internally illuminated fascia sign	Support, design and appearance acceptable
7	26/00358/FUL <i>Westlands</i>	Mr N Taslim	Building To The Rear Of 100 Middle Street Yeovil Somerset BA20 1NE	Build over existing store to provide No. 2 Flats to First and Second Floors.	Support, no material planning concerns
8	26/00845/HOU <i>Westlands</i>	Mr Dorian Martin	20 The Crescent Yeovil Somerset BA20 1XW	Replacement Single Storey Garage	Support, design and appearance acceptable
9	26/00875/S73 <i>Yeovil College</i>	Yeovil Town Council	Yeovil Athletic Track Mudford Road Yeovil Somerset BA21 3DS	S73 Application to vary Condition 02 (approved plans) to replace the existing metal-halide floodlighting units at Yeovil Recreation Centre with modern LED luminaires relating to planning consent 01/01010/R3D; The erection of floodlighting columns to athletics track	The Committee noted this application.
10	26/00877/S73 <i>Yeovil College</i>	Yeovil Town Council	Yeovil Recreation Ground Hockey Pitch Chilton Grove Yeovil Somerset	S73 Application to vary Condition 04 (floodlighting) to replace the existing metal-halide floodlighting units at Yeovil Recreation Centre with modern LED luminaires relating to planning consent 11/03605/R3D; The creation of artificial	The Committee noted this application.

			BA21 4AW	grass pitch with adjoining warm up area, spectator terracing, fencing, floodlighting and associated landscaping and engineering works	
11	26/00910/FUL Grove Avenue	Karen Croker	Rainbow Court Swallowcliffe Gardens Yeovil Somerset BA20 1BP	Proposed replacement of existing timber framed windows and doors with white uPVC framed units (like for like fenestration).	Support, design and appearance acceptable

(b) TREE PRESERVATION ORDER APPLICATION

	APPLICATION NO Parish Ward	Applicant	Site Address	Proposal	Notes
1	26/00681/TPO	Mrs Gillan Beal	6A Wraxhill Road Yeovil Somerset BA20 2JZ	Application to carry out tree surgery work to No. 1 Ash Tree as shown by the South Somerset District Council (YEOV 3) 2007 Tree Preservation Order. T1 - Ash tree - re pollard by approx 6 meters to prevent future failure	Noted

(c) APPEAL – 25/02177/FUL

RESOLVED: to note.

(d) PLANNING DECISION

RESOLVED: to note.

11/353 MEMBERS' ATTENDANCE

Council considered the Schedule of Members' Attendance at Council and Committee Meetings in 2025/26.

RESOLVED: to note the Members' attendance.

11/354 MEMBERS' ALLOWANCE

Council considered the Members' Allowances which were paid to Members of Yeovil Town Council during 2025/26.

RESOLVED: to note the Members' Allowance

Meeting closed at 8:42 pm.

Signed:

Date: