



# 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](http://www.yeovil.gov.uk)

E-mail: town.clerk@yeovil.gov.uk

**Minutes of the meeting of Yeovil Town Council held on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> January 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; T Casey; K Gill; E Hopkins; K Hussian; A Kendall; J Lock; K Parsons; E Potts-Jones; W Read; A Richards; R Stickland; H Stonier; R White; A Wilkes and D Woan.

**In Attendance (in person):** A Card (Chief Executive/Town Clerk); Rev J Pearce and D Recardo (Mace Bearer).

**In Attendance (virtually):** L Ryder (Deputy Town Clerk)

There was one member of the press present virtually.

## Public Comment

The Mayor of Yeovil, Cllr T Lock held a minutes' silence for the sad passing of former councillor, Stephen Hawker.

Cllr A Richards raised concerns regarding the shutting of the side doors of M&S. The Chair suggested that he ask for an agenda item be put on the relevant committee. He also raised a question regarding the progress made for presenting the recording of meetings on YouTube. The Chief Executive / Town Clerk gave an update on the progress.

*7:41 pm The meeting commenced.*

## **11/305 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); J Lowery (personal reasons); G Oakes (unwell); J Snell (unwell); A Soughton (conflicting engagement); and R Spinner (recovering from an operation).

*\*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.*

The Mayor of Yeovil, Cllr T Lock wished Cllr R Spinner a speedy recovery.

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

**11/306 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).

| <b>Councillor</b>  | <b>Reason</b>                  | <b>Interest</b> |
|--------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------|
| Cllr A Kendall     | Member of:<br>Somerset Council | Personal        |
| Cllr T Lock        |                                |                 |
| Cllr G Oakes       |                                |                 |
| Cllr E Potts-Jones |                                |                 |
| Cllr W Read        |                                |                 |
| Cllr J Snell       |                                |                 |
| Cllr A Soughton    |                                |                 |
| Cllr D Woan        |                                |                 |

**11/307 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS TOWN COUNCIL MEETING**

To confirm as a correct record the minutes of the previous Town Council Meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2025.

**RESOLVED:** that the minutes of the previous Town Council Meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2025 be signed by the Chair as a correct record.

**11/308 MAYOR AND DEPUTY MAYOR'S RECENT AND FORTHCOMING ENGAGEMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor stated that both he, and the Deputy Mayor had been very busy leading up to Christmas.

A Councillor raised a question regarding an engagement. The engagement on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2025 should read "The Mayor of Yeovil, Councillor Tony Lock attended The Spirit of Gymnastics Christmas Show at Spirits Gymnastics Academy"

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

**11/309 CORRESPONDENCE**

The Chief Executive/Town Clerk informed Council that a consultation regarding the Dog Control Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) would be taking place shortly and that the link would be circulated once the consultation went live.

The Chief Executive/Town Clerk read additional correspondence from Yeovil Without Parish Council regarding a collective response calling on the Government to award the New Medium Helicopter contract to Leonardo without further delay.

At this point, Cllr R Stickland declared a personal interest, being the Chair of Yeovil Without Parish Council. Cllr E Hopkins also declared a personal interest, as she worked for Leonardo.

Correspondence was also read from Adam Dance MP concerning Yeovil Town Council writing to the Minister in support of awarding the New Medium Helicopter contract to Leonardo.

**RESOLVED:** (1) to note the correspondence; (2) that the Council work collaboratively with neighbouring parishes to provide an urgent response to the Government to award the New Medium Helicopter contract to Leonardo without further delay; (3) that the Council write to the Minister about the awarding of the New Medium Helicopter contract to Leonardo and the effects on Yeovil should the contract note be awarded; and (4) that Cllr D Woan assist the Chief Executive/Town Clerk on the matter.

**11/310 REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COMMITTEES AND OTHER MEETINGS**

**Planning Committee – 15<sup>th</sup> December 2025 / 19<sup>th</sup> January 2026**

Presented by Cllr K Gill. An update of planning applications discussed at the meetings held were given to Council. There were no questions.

**Leisure & Environment Committee – 12<sup>th</sup> January 2026**

Presented by Cllr K Gill. An update on the meeting held was provided to Council, which included feedback from the allotment tenant representative, confirmation that allotment plots were currently let at 92%, the replacement of allotment padlocks, a service update, and budget monitoring and budget-setting recommendations. There were no questions.

**Culture, Events & Promotions Committee – 13<sup>th</sup> January 2026**

Presented by Cllr D Woan. He provided an update on the meeting held, which included an events update, feedback from the pantomime, and the Committee's congratulations to all those involved in the production, along with budget monitoring and budget-setting recommendations. No questions were raised.

**Infrastructure (Property & Assets) Committee – 6<sup>th</sup> January 2026**

Presented by Cllr R Stickland. An update was provided to the Council covering the defibrillator and bleed kit programme; budget monitoring; budget setting; community wardens, a property update including the significant amount of compliance work which had been carried out, Peter Street toilets and the requirement for a strategic office and storage accommodation review. There were no questions.

Cllr T Lock mentioned about replacing some safety rails outside the Scout Hut on St Michaels Avenue. The Chair of the Committee asked for the relevant information to be passed to the Director of Infrastructure (Property & Assets), then it could be added to the next agenda.

## Finance & Policy Executive – 20<sup>th</sup> January 2026

Presented by Cllr R Stickland. He provided an update on the discussions held at the meeting, which included the grant of £1,000 awarded to Yeovil Street Pastors, approval of payments, budget monitoring, bank reconciliation, balance sheet, draft budget, Octagon Theatre funding, the Risk Strategy and Risk Assessment, and the Complaints Handling Procedure. There were no questions.

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

### **11/311 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.

Cllr E Potts-Jones informed Council of a community litter picking event being held in the Westfield area of Yeovil on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> January 2026, from 11am until 12 noon, meeting outside the Co-op.

There were no other reports from representatives on Outside Bodies.

The Chair requested that a list of representatives to Outside Bodies be circulated and that representatives provide feedback on whether each Outside Body has met.

**RESOLVED:** to note the report.

### **11/312 BUDGET 2026/27**

The Chief Executive/Town Clerk introduced the budget for 2026/27. She drew Council's attention to the amended report, which revised the proposed charge per tax band,

| <b>Tax Band</b>        | <b>A-</b> | <b>A</b> | <b>B</b> | <b>C</b> | <b>D</b> | <b>E</b> | <b>F</b> | <b>G</b> | <b>H</b> |
|------------------------|-----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Ratio to Band D        | 5/9       | 6/9      | 7/9      | 8/9      | 9/9      | 11/9     | 13/9     | 15/9     | 18/9     |
| Council Tax Charge (£) | 205.41    | 246.49   | 287.57   | 328.65   | 369.73   | 451.89   | 534.05   | 616.22   | 739.46   |

and to the Total Reserves and General Fund Balances, which amended the narrative of predicted funds from £2,600,771 to £2,699,856 at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026. Both documents had been circulated to Council in advance of the meeting, and she confirmed that the Council's website had been updated with the amended information.

The Vice Chair of the Finance & Policy Executive highlighted that the Committee budgets had been recommended to the Finance & Policy Executive through the relevant committees, and that the Finance & Policy Executive was now recommending the budget to Council.

It was proposed by Cllr R Stickland and seconded by Cllr W Read that both the budget and precept as shown within the agenda is agreed.

**RESOLVED:** (1) to note the report (*voting: 16 for; and 1 abstention*); (2) to approve Yeovil Town Council's budget of £3,597,700 for the financial year 2026/27 (*voting: 16 for; 1*

*abstention)\*<sup>1</sup>; (3) to approve Yeovil Town Council's precept of £3,597,700 for the financial year 2026/27 (voting: 17 for<sup>\*2</sup>); and (4) that the Chief Executive/Town Clerk notify Somerset Council by completion of the Precept Request 2026/27. Local Government Finance Act 1992 (Section 41) - Parish/Town/City Council Precepts*

*\*1 For (T Lock; W Read; B Boyton; T Casey; K Gill; E Hopkins; K Hussian; A Kendall; J Lock; K Parsons; E Potts-Jones; R Stickland; H Stonier; R White; A Wilkes and D Woan); Abstention Cllr A Richards).*

*\*2 For (T Lock; W Read; B Boyton; T Casey; K Gill; E Hopkins; K Hussian; A Kendall; J Lock; K Parsons; E Potts-Jones; A Richards; R Stickland; H Stonier; R White; A Wilkes and D Woan).*

*8:24 pm Cllr A Wilkes left the meeting and did not return*

**11/313        CHANGE OF COMMITTEE NAME**

**RESOLVED:** that the “Finance & Policy Executive” be renamed to the “Executive with effect of 1<sup>st</sup> April 2026.

**11/314        RISK STRATEGY AND RISK ASSESSMENT**

Members considered the Risk Strategy and Risk Assessment.

The Chief Executive/Town Clerk highlighted that any amendments that had been made were highlighted.

**RESOLVED:** to approve and adopt the Risk Strategy and Risk Assessment.

*(voting: 15 for; 1 abstention)*

*Meeting closed at 8:26 pm.*

Signed:

Date: