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**Yeovil Town Council**

**Annual Report 2021/22**

**Amanda Card**

**Town Clerk**

17th May 2022

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**1 Members of Yeovil Town Council – 2021/22**

Evie Potts-Jones–Mayor of Yeovil Town

Andy Kendall – Deputy Mayor of Yeovil Town

Olivia Darling-Smith (until 23rd May 2021)

Jade Dash

Nigel Gage

Karl Gill

Peter Gubbins

David Gubbins

Emma Jayne-Hopkins (19th August 2021)

Gordon Hunting

Kaysar Hussain

Terry Ledlie

Mike Lock

Pauline Lock

Tony Lock

Jane Lowery

Sarah Lowery

Graham Oakes

Wes Read

David Recardo

Ashley Richards

Andy Soughton

Jeny Snell (from 11th January 2022)

Roy Spinner

Rob Stickland

Helen Stonier (until 29th September 2021)

**2 Team Structure**

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**3 Yeovil Town Council**

* The Council met on seven occasions during the year.
* The Council as a whole has faced many challenges due to COVID-19. This has had an impact on how Council business is conducted, including the way that meetings are held. The Council held two face-to-face meetings; four informal meetings and one hybrid meeting.
* In May, we held our Annual Town Council meeting and appointed members to serve on the various Committees to the Town Council and the outside bodies on which the Council is represented. We also elected our Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen on these Committees.
* At the June meeting, the Council approved the Annual Governance Statement and the Accounting Statements for the financial year 2020/21.
* At the September meeting, Tony Reece 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.

Also, at this meeting the Council were informed of the conclusion of the external auditors regarding the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) 2020/21. It was 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.

Somerset County Council and the One Somerset team asked Somerset Association of Local Councils (SALC) for their 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. 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. At this meeting Yeovil Town Council supported an election in May 2022.

* At our November meeting, Natasha Rand and Zoe Li from Yeovil Art Space gave a presentation regarding their work. Yeovil Art Space is a group of local creatives, sharing ideas and bringing a number of initiatives and projects together. They spoke of their engagement work and how it connected people and generations. There are a variety of commissions working on Youth (with Tom Goddard) and Public Realm Environmental (with Denman & Gould). They are also working on a Celebration: Jubilee Outreach project. They spoke of the importance of Art Culture and Heritage in Yeovil and developing a way to make heritage accessible to everyone.
* In December, 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. 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.

The draft budget for 2022/23 was noted and further consideration would be given to the setting of the 2022/23 precept pending final notification from South Somerset District Council of the tax base and the Crematorium and Cemetery Committee final budget.

* At our February Meeting, 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.

We gave final consideration to the setting of the 2022/23 budget. We decided to approve the Town Council’s precept as £1,273,440, which resulted in an increase on a Band D charge of £13.28 per year (or 25p per week) and increase from £129.31 to £142.59.

* At this meeting, the Risk Strategy and Risk Assessment for 2022/23 for Yeovil Town Council was approved and adopted.
* At the April meeting, Rachael Whaites (Countryside Manager); Kristy Davies (Countryside Ranger) and Edd Chilcott (Community Heritage Officer) from Yeovil Country Park to give an update on the work of Yeovil Country Park.

***Cllr Evie Potts-Jones, Chairman of Yeovil Town Council***

***17th May 2022***

**4 Planning Committee**

The Planning Committee met 11 times during the 2021/22 year, and except for two meetings held away from the Town House, all were held as hybrid meetings where the decisions were taken by members physically present in the Council Chamber, whilst others were able to contribute to the discussion virtually using Zoom meeting software.

Despite the pandemic and the associated restrictions, numerous applications have continued to be submitted throughout the year and passed to the Town Council for comment. As well as the standard ‘full’ and ‘outline’ applications, other proposals for advertisements, works to listed buildings, works to protected trees, and proposed changes of use to land and buildings have also been considered. The Town Council is a consultee in the planning application process and South Somerset District Council, as the Local Planning Authority, takes the final decision. The final decisions taken by the Local Planning Authority are reported back to the Committee.

There continues to be a wide variety of proposed development to be considered by the Committee. As always, numerous minor domestic extensions have been dealt with (which need to be considered carefully in terms of their potential impact on the occupiers of neighbouring properties), as well as larger scale residential and commercial developments which can have a significant impact on the Town as a whole.

In particular, one application submitted to the Local Planning Authority in August 2021 has attracted considerable interest and raised significant concerns for the local residents. The application (21/02466/COU) by the Bournemouth Churches Housing Association proposes the change of use of Acacia Lodge, 166 Hendford Hill, Yeovil from a care home to accommodation for people experiencing homelessness. A large number of concerns were raised, and therefore an additional Planning Committee to focus on this particular application was organised at Yeovil Rugby Club in September 2021 where numerous members of the public could be accommodated and were given the opportunity to have their say. The Committee resolved to agree to defer the application because of the lack of information provided. As a result, additional information was submitted by the applicant and a further public meeting was held in January 2022 in an even larger setting at Westlands Entertainment Venue in Yeovil. Here, all interested parties who wanted to attend could do so, and make a contribution if they wished. After listening to the numerous points made, the Committee on behalf of the Town Council, raised an objection to the application 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. The application has not yet been determined by SSDC.

Whilst the vast majority of planning applications are approved, a small number are refused each year, and the Town Council plays a role in supporting the Local Planning Authority in providing a case to resist inappropriate and unacceptable development when necessary.

Finally, I would like to thank the staff for their commitment and hard work in putting together the agendas and presentations for each meeting throughout the year.

***Gordon Hunting, Chairman of the Planning Committee***

***17th May 2022***

**5 Grounds and General Maintenance Committee**

The Committee met on five occasions during the year.

**Play Areas**

The Committee manages 16 play areas across Yeovil and receives regular reports regarding inspection and maintenance.

Partnership working with South Somerset District Council continues in line with the 5-year investment plan of improvement to the Town’s play and youth facilities. Working Parties have been formed to review provision of equipment at Arnewood Park Gardens play area; and Milford and Yew Tree skate park.

**Youth Facilities**

The free Open Access Holiday Activities Programme for young people was unfortunately unable to take place. Instead, contributions from Yeovil Town Council enabled play boxes to be distributed around Yeovil with a booklet including ideas for play, craft and simple cooking tasks for children to carry out at home. The feedback from this initiative as an alternative to the usual community activities was very positive. The activity idea booklet was also available online, enabling as many children as possible access to the ideas and encouraging them to share their creations.

**Allotments**

The Council’s pro-active and flexible approach to allotment management continues to help achieve a thriving allotment community, and the active promotion of vacant allotments has maintained an excellent level of allotment lettings across the Town’s 11 allotment sites, many with waiting lists. The varied benefits of allotment gardening are explained in the publicity of the vacancies which includes advertising on Facebook, in the press and posters in the community. Residents outside as well as within the parish of Yeovil are currently eligible to have the opportunity to take a tenancy of a Yeovil Town Council allotment.

Each allotment site is encouraged to have a nominated Tenants’ Representative. These representatives feedback allotment issues to the Town Council which have been raised by their fellow tenants and where necessary they are forwarded to the Committee for their consideration.

The income raised from allotment rents helps to meet the costs of maintaining the Town’s allotment sites, and any[[1]](#footnote-1) annual rent increase means that the budgeted income represents an acceptable percentage of the overall costs, whilst also continuing to ensure a fair and sustainable approach to their future provision. A mains water charge now re-charges the cost of mains water used by tenants on a site-by-site basis. This will mean that tenants will be paying for the water actually used, whilst encouraging more environmentally friendly ways of collecting and recycling rainwater thereby reducing the dependency on mains water. This approach is in line with the Council’s values of raising awareness of environmental issues, improving the quality of the environment and encouraging an environmentally friendly ethos in line with the Climate Control Policy.

Following a tender process, new fencing was erected at Sunningdale with the inclusions of badger gates to allow established routes for badgers to continue.

The trackways at both Sunningdale and Goar Knapp were repaired to enable better and safer access.

A wall adjacent to Elizabeth Flats allotments site structure was strengthened following advice from a Structural Engineer in response to the safety of the wall.

An Allotment Maintenance Working Party continues to review the Allotment Tenancy agreements in line with Town Council policies and legislation.

Yeovil Town Council continue to contract a local contractor for general allotment site maintenance who have proven to be extremely efficient.

**Greenspace Areas**

The Committee has continued to fund the maintenance of an extensive number of areas of amenity and open spaces in the Town – including Yeovil Country Park. This ensures that local communities have ongoing access to public areas of green space close to where they live. Organised monitoring and review arrangements have taken place to identify issues affecting open spaces across the town.

The Committee supported South Somerset District Council’s request for continued funding towards a Community Heritage Officer to work within the Country Park team to continue the provision of activities made available by the V3 Project and provide support for the Heritage Officer and volunteers at the Community Heritage Access Centre.

The Committee is supportive of the Countryside team’s (SSDC) ongoing work Yeovil Country Park. The team, including volunteers, reaches out to a wide variety of community groups and their work has been vital throughout the pandemic, especially as the significance of greenspace became apparent for outdoor exercise and outdoor socialising when permitted. Adapting to the increasing visitor numbers to the natural open space, in line with government restrictions has also been a crucial part of the Country Park management plan. The Ninesprings Café, Education and Information Centre, which the Town Council helped to fund, is an invaluable resource, both in terms of an excellent facility for communication and marketing, and a lovely meeting point for social and educational purposes. Whilst opening this facility was restricted at times throughout the year, a take-away service continued which was appreciated by visitors to the park.

The Committee continued to work with Streetscene services to monitor the provision and use of dog waste bins allocated throughout Yeovil Town, responding as appropriate to suggestions from the community regarding prevention of fouling. Two dog waste bins and two litter bins were replaced in Sunningdale Doorstep Green.

A close working relationship with South Somerset District Council has continued, with the Service Level Agreement as a foundation document for streamlining services and setting out the best way to progress with joint future initiatives.

***Royston Spinner, Chairman of the Grounds and General Maintenance Committee***

***17th May 2022***

**6 Promotions and Activities Committee**

The Committee met on five occasions during the year.

**Eat: Festival**

During this municipal year, four events had been commission by Eat:Festivals:

* 22nd May 2021
* Super Saturday
* Christmas Eat: Festival
* Town Criers (23rd April 2022)

Feedback had been received stating that the events had been well organised, encouraging footfall figures, good atmosphere and those who attended enjoyed the events.

**Queens Platinum Jubilee**

Whilst the planned VE/VJ Day 2020 and the Music in the Park event could not go ahead due to the pandemic, The Queen’s Platinum Jubilee event is currently being planned. The event will take place on Friday 3rd June at Yeovil Recreation Ground, 12 noon until 10pm. The team have been remarkably busy working to compile the event, booking local bands and community groups; refreshment providers, licensed bars; hiring security, stewards, first aid and volunteers.

The lighting of the beacon at St Johns Church will take place on Thursday 2nd June, this has been contracted to Love Yeovil to deliver.

**Yeovil in Bloom**

The regional RHS “In Bloom” award was held in Weston Super Mare. Yeovil in Bloom won the Silver Gilt Award in the St Bridget Cup.

The town and St John’s Churchyard looked lovely with all the floral displays.

**Christmas Lights**

Due to Yeovil Refresh the Christmas Light displays were reduced for Christmas. The Light Switch on which was ran by Love Yeovil had live music and was in the Churchyard, it was very well attended.

The Council sponsored the Christmas Lantern Parade kits. The parade took place from the Churchyard, down middle Street and back through the Quedam.

The current Christmas Lighting Scheme has been extended to Christmas 2022 due to Yeovil Refresh and new scheme will be decided for Christmas 2023.

**Yeovil Super Saturday**

The 2021 Yeovil Super Saturday took place on Saturday 18th September. In its 15th year, the community spirit of the day was as powerful as ever as the town was thriving with residents and visitors enjoying the attractions and perusing the food stalls.

“Bugfest” provided the opportunity to view insects, reptiles and tarantulas up close and was extremely popular, and whilst visitors could not take a creepy or crawly home with them, they could make a request for a bespoke balloon animal or sculpture created on the spot by Miss Popularity. Positive feedback was received about the stilt walker and mirror men who were dancing like disco balls in the sunlight.

St John’s Church was once again part of the event as they provided refreshments and a book sale.

The Eat:Festival was in King George Street and St Johns Church.

Adjustments had been made in accordance with the COVID-19 guidance.

The feedback from the day was incredibly positive.

**Town Criers**

Having been cancelled for the last 3 years due to severe weather in year 1 and COVID-19 in year 2 and 3, the Town Criers Competition returned this year. Due to Yeovil Refresh, the event took place in King George Street and was hosted by our very own Town Crier, Bruce Trigger and the Mayor, Cllr Evie Potts-Jones. Fourteen Town Criers took part and everyone enjoyed the day.

**Yeovil Together**

The Council financially supported the Yeovil Together Event which was organised by Somerset Diverse Communities. It was an extraordinarily successful day, with the public taking part in activities that the various communities ran. Many friendships were made and new networks and groups launched. The event will return this year.

***Sarah Lowery, Chairman of the Promotions and Activities Committee***

***17th May 2022***

**7 Buildings and Civic Matters Committee**

The Committee met on five occasions during the 2021/2022. All were held as hybrid meetings where the decisions were taken by members physically present in the Council Chamber, whilst others were able to contribute to the discussion virtually using Zoom meeting software. The work of the Committee has continued to be impacted during the year by the pandemic, but in most cases work has continued to be carried out, albeit delayed at times.

**Defibrillators**

The Council now have five defibrillators within their portfolio – Nationwide Building Society; Cow and Apple; Yeovil Country Park; St Peters Community Centre (Westfield Area) and St Andrews Scout Hut (Preston Grove Area). The defibrillator at Nationwide Building Society and Yeovil Country Park have been funded by the team at the Yeovil Branch of Nationwide who have undertaken a fundraising campaign. Kind donations have also been received from Yeovil Crime Reduction Team and two mystery donators There are more defibrillators to come - including Forest Hill, the Quedam, Princess Street, and the Birchfield area. Yeovil Town Council remain the guardians of these defibrillators which means they are responsible for ensuring that they are ready to use. The defibrillators are registered with the Circuit and with Heartsafe. Yeovil Town Council have been working with Emerald First Aid Training to provide free CPR and Defibrillator Training.

**Monmouth Community Hall**

Monmouth Community Hall was closed at the outset of the pandemic in March 2020 and following a risk assessment it was decided the Hall could not be re-opened due to a number of health and safety concerns. With no prospect of the hall re-opening and falling into further dis-repair, and with the continuing problem of anti-social activities at the site, the Committee took the decision to demolish the building in July 2021. All necessary steps were taken to demolish the building in a safe and controlled way to minimise nuisance to the nearby residents, including undertaking a tender process to appoint a suitable and experienced contractor, the disconnection of services, and applications to obtain the required planning and building regulation permissions.

Now that the building is demolished, the Committee is looking to develop the site. A working party has been established to progress this project.

**Milford Community Hall**

Milford Hall has slowly re-opened to the public over the course of the year, but with safety measures in place following the Government guidance for the control of coronavirus in order to safeguard hall users. Bookings over the winter period, however, were still impacted by the upturn in the spread of the virus, but bookings have started to increase during Spring. Whilst bookings have been low during the winter period, the Facilities Officer has taken the opportunity to redecorate the interior of the building, and as a consequence, the building looks much smarter.

In June last year the pre-school using the sub-hall at Milford Park announced they were moving to the site of a local primary school leaving the sub-hall vacant. The Council was approached by another pre-school wanting to use the sub-hall, and also by Somerset County Council’s Family Time Team (part of Children’s Services) who requested the use Milford Hall as their base for their South Somerset Team located in Yeovil. The Committee considered both options and agreed that the SCC Family Time Team should be allowed to hire the sub-hall and the meeting room, and a lease is currently being drawn up. It is important to note that the main hall will continue to be available for community groups, and there has been adequate availability for those groups that previously used Monmouth Hall.

**Public Toilets**

In accordance with the Non-Domestic Rating (Public Lavatories) Act 2021, the Town Council were to receive 100% relief from business rates. This would also involve a refund for the business rates paid during 2019/20.

When the Peter Street public toilets were built in 2009, the building was designed to incorporate a number of eco-friendly features including a rainwater recycling system. Unfortunately, the rainwater recycling system was failing with increasing frequency and therefore the Committee in January 2021 had agreed that a specialist company be sought to investigate the problem. In June 2021 WCI Wastewater Engineers visited the site, conducted a thorough investigation, and provided a written report. The Company has subsequently been appointed to rectify and replace the necessary parts to enable the system to function again. It has also been appointed to service and maintain the system to avoid persistent problems in the future.

**Water Hygiene Risk Assessments and Monitoring**

The pandemic highlighted the need for greater monitoring of water hygiene in the buildings managed by the Town Council in order to ensure that staff and the public are safe. Once covid restrictions allowed, risk assessments were carried out at the Town House, Milford Hall and in Peter Street and Petters Way public toilets in July 2021. In January 2022, the Committee agreed to an on-going monitoring scheme by a specialist company which is now in operation.

**100th Anniversary of the Borough War Memorial**

On 14th July 2021 at 11.00am, the Town Council held a commemoration service to mark the 100th Anniversary of the Borough War Memorial. The event was small because of covid restrictions, but children from primary schools in Yeovil were invited to attend, as well as representatives from Able 2 Achieve and the Royal British Legion.

The Deputy Mayor welcomed everyone, and the Rev Jim Peace addressed the public and blessed the war memorial. The children then laid posies of flowers to remember those who had died in the war, and Cllr Sarah Lowery sung the hymn “Nearer My God to Thee” which was the hymn that was sung at the unveiling of the War Memorial in 1921.

**Remembrance Sunday**

The Remembrance Sunday event is run by the Royal British Legion. The Town Council are now responsible for submitting the application for road closures for the Remembrance Sunday Parade. Previously it has been the responsibility of the Royal British Legion. Due to COVID-19 those that could attend the service in St John’s Church was restricted.

The Town Council filmed the event, and it was available for social media and the website soon after Remembrance Sunday.

**Commemorative Benches**

In 2019/20, the Committee supported the provision and funding of three benches for Yeovil: one for Yeovil District Hospital to celebrate the work of the NHS during the pandemic, and two to commemorate the VE and VJ Day anniversaries. The VE and VJ benches were installed behind St John’s Churchyard in February 2022. The Hospital sourced a local handmade and sustainable bench which has recently been placed in the dementia friendly garden, but it is intended that it will be incorporated into the landscaping for the new breast cancer unit at the front of the hospital when complete next year.

**Community Safety**

A report was provided to the Committee regarding the work of the police in Yeovil. Funding from the Home Office to fund an operation was put in place to pay particular attention to spots in Yeovil where serious violent crime took place or was likely to take place. She also spoke of County Lines and anti-social behaviour in particular areas of Yeovil which fell just outside the PSPO areas. The budget for 2022/23 had been increased by £15,000.

***Cllr Rob Stickland, Chairman of the Buildings and Civic Matters Committee***

***17th May 2022***

**8 Policy, Resources and Finance Committee**

The Committee met on six occasions during the year.

**Grants and Service Level Agreements**

The Policy, Resources and Finance Committee considered four grant applications in accordance with our Small Grant Assistance to Local Organisation policy and made awards for £6,770 to 4 local organisations.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Organisation** | **Purpose of Grant Application** | **Amount awarded** |
| Wassail Theatre Group | Towards theatre production | £500 |
| Swan Theatre | Toward new ventilation system | £2,499 |
| St Michael’s Church – Music at St Michaels | Start up costs for a community choir | £2,271 |
| Yeovil Shop Mobility | General Running Costs | £1,500 |

Yeovil Town Council contributed £5,000 to the Lords Larder in Yeovil. They also agreed that the Town Council could have a drop off point for donations at Town House.

Yeovil Town Council granted £5,080 to the Citizens Advice Bureau to enable the organisation to help the increase in those seeking assistance due to COVID-19, energy cost rises and food cost increases.

During the year a Grants and Service Level Agreement working party was formed to review the grants policy and service level agreement process. The policy was extended to individuals targeted towards those in education and those developing talents in the arts, sports and science. A fresh style application form for both organisations and individuals were agreed.

The Service Level Agreement with The Octagon Theatre towards the provision of the annual Octagon Theatre School that caters for young people between the ages of 7 and 16 years old was extended for the value of £1,000.

**Policies**

The Policy, Resources and Finance Committee have agreed that unless a change was required due to legal requirements, recommended changes in practices or change in internal operations, that policies would not need to be reviewed every year. They agreed that those policies that were either new or had a major policy revision would be reviewed one year after its effective date, and thereafter no less that every five years.

The following policies were approved and adopted:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Policy** | **New** | **Reviewed** |
| Grants Policy |  |  |
| Virtual Meeting Protocol |  |  |
| Risk Strategy and Risk Assessment |  |  |
| Members’ Travel and Subsistence Allowance |  |  |
| Scheme of Delegation |  |  |

The Policy, Resources and Finance Committee have agreed that unless a change was required due to legal requirements, recommended changes in practices or change in internal operations, that policies would not need to be reviewed every year. They agreed that those policies that were either new or had a major policy revision would be reviewed one year after its effective date, and thereafter no less that every five years.

**Youth Services in Yeovil**

The partnership between the YMCA Brunel Group and Yeovil Town Council has resulted in a successful delivery of Youth Provision in Yeovil. The Committee agreed to extend the contract with YMCA Brunel Group for a further 3 years with the opportunity to extend at the end of that period for a further 2 years. Youth Clubs currently run at Milford Hall and the Westfield provision has recently moved to the improved John O’Donnell pavilion at Recreation Centre.

The Committee also considered and agreed the proposal for a service level agreement with YUMC Brunel Group for a detached and outreach service which would take the service out to areas where young people congregated. This work is complimentary to the youth club centred based youth work.

**Statement of Accounts and Revenue Budget Outturn Report for 2020/21**

The Statement of Accounts and Revenue Budget Outturn Report for 2020/21 were approved. There was an underspend of £156,415 for 2020/21 (£111,519 for 2019/20). As at 31st March 2021, the earmarked reserves (reserves set aside for specific purposes) totalled £200,594 (compared to £118,315 as at 31st March 2020) and the unallocated general fund balance was £77,348 (compared to £739,462 as at 31st March 2020).

**Armed Forces Covenant**

Yeovil Town Council agreed in principle to sign up to the Armed Forces Covenant and that when appropriate that the relevant personnel from the Armed Forces is invited to sign the Armed Forces Covenant.

**Conference Cam**

A conference cam facility was purchased to enable the Council to hold hybrid meetings which meant that during COVID-19, the Council were able to satisfy the need to meet face-to-face in a safe manner but to also satisfy the requirement to allow public access to the meetings. The conference cam facility consisted of a web cam, audio and microphone as well as a 70-inch monitor. The Council agreed to continue with hybrid meetings, so that the Members of Committee would be in physical attendance whilst other councillors could join remotely. Town Councils will continue to run face-to-face when important decisions have to be made, but informally when this is not necessary.

**Website**

The new website went live in February 2022. The website can be viewed at [www.yeovil.gov.uk](http://www.yeovil.gov.uk). The Town Council is committed to ensuring digital accessibility for people with disabilities and continually improve the user experience for everyone and apply where possible the relevant accessibility standards.

**Yeovil Town Councillor e-mail addresses**

It was agreed to purchase @yeovil.gov.uk email addresses for all Councillors and that all Councillors must use these addresses for Council business.

**Staff**

I would like to thank Officers on behalf of all the Councillors for their work over the past year and recognise that all the staff have worked very hard to keep the Council functioning during very difficult times.

***Cllr Graham Oakes, Chairman of Policy, Resources and Finance Committee***

***17th May 2022***

1. It was agreed not to increase the allotment rent in 2020, 2021 or 2022, but for 2023 an increase of 3p to 43p per m2 was agreed. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)