



# 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)  
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## Minutes of the meeting of Yeovil Town Council held on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> April 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 (in the Chair); K Gill; E Hopkins; K Hussain; A Kendall; J Lock; J Lowery; K Parsons; E Potts-Jones; W Read; A Soughton; R Spinner; R Stickland; H Stonier; R White; A Wilkes and D Woan.

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

**In Attendance (virtually):** Cllrs J Jimba; A Richards and J Snell.

There were six members of the public present in person, one member of the public and one member of the press present virtually.

### Public Comment

There were no public comments.

7:32 pm *The meeting commenced.*

### 11/326 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 B Boyton (work commitments); J Cabell (work commitments); T Casey (injury); J Jimba (unwell)\*; G Oakes (unwell); A Richards (personal reasons)\* and J Snell (family reasons)\*.

*\*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.

### 11/327 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: 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		

Cllr A Kendall declared a personal interest in item 11/334 – Update on Progress of Potential Legal Challenge relating to the Hyper Acute Stroke Unit Closure due to his personal experience of having previously suffered a stroke.

Cllr K Parsons declared a personal interest in item 11/330 – Correspondence relating to the 94 Club as she is President of the Ladies Skittles League and also a member of the 94 Club.

**11/328            MINUTES OF PREVIOUS TOWN COUNCIL MEETING**

To confirm as a correct record the minutes of the previous Town Council Meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2026.

**RESOLVED:** that the minutes of the previous Town Council Meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2026 be signed by the Chair as a correct record.

**11/329            MAYOR AND DEPUTY MAYOR’S RECENT AN FORTHCOMING ENGAGEMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor advised that officers had requested councillors be reminded that, when notifications are issued regarding dates or matters requiring a response, these should be responded to promptly, as a response was required either way. This was in reference to Mayor Making on 5<sup>th</sup> May 2026; the Mayor’s Civic Service on 31<sup>st</sup> May 2026; and the Mayor’s Civic Evening on 20<sup>th</sup> June 2026.

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

**11/330            CORRESPONDENCE**

Members considered correspondence regarding support for an application to list the 94 Club. A proposal was made to support the application in principle, citing the building’s historic significance within the town, changes to the surrounding area, and concerns about the ongoing loss of historic buildings in Yeovil. The proposal was seconded, with members further

highlighting the site's wartime history and cultural importance. It was also suggested that support be given to the installation of a blue plaque associated with the Second World War British Restaurant scheme. The proposer confirmed their agreement to incorporate both elements into the recommendation.

There was no other correspondence.

**RESOLVED:** (1) to agree in principle to support the application to Somerset Council for the building to be listed; and (2) to agree in principle to support the application to Historic England for the installation of a Blue Plaque to mark the building's important association with the Second World War British Restaurant Scheme.

**11/331      REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COMMITTEES AND OTHER MEETINGS**

**Planning Committee – 16<sup>th</sup> March 2026**

Presented by Cllr K Gill. No questions were raised.

**Leisure & Environment Committee – 9<sup>th</sup> March 2026**

Presented by Cllr K Gill. No questions were raised.

Cllr R Spinner thanked Cllr K Gill for chairing the meetings in his absence.

**Culture, Events & Promotions Committee – 17<sup>th</sup> March 2026**

There was no meeting as there was no business to transact.

**Infrastructure (Property & Assets) Committee – 10<sup>th</sup> March 2026**

Presented by Cllr R Stickland. No questions were raised.

**Finance & Policy Executive – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026**

Presented by Cllr A Soughton. No questions were raised.

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

**11/332 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 J Lowry reported her involvement with the Westfield Community Association and advised that she would be appointed as an honorary trustee, enabling her to attend trustee meetings. She also highlighted a forthcoming Westfield Community Garden volunteer session taking place on 8<sup>th</sup> April 2026, inviting councillors to attend.

Cllr K Parsons reported on her attendance at several local events, including the Somerset Dementia Conference, organised by Spark Somerset, which she attended with Cllr T Lock. She described the conference as informative and highlighted the significant work being undertaken across the county. She also reported attending the Kingfisher School arts exhibition at Lufton Community Hall, where councillors were welcomed by the headteacher

and shown around. In addition, she provided an update on ongoing community activity in Westfield, including regular monthly litter-picking sessions.

Cllr R Stickland reported on his attendance at the Birchfield and Westfield Exhibition Day on 19<sup>th</sup> March 2026 and the Birchfield Action Group meeting held later the same evening. He highlighted upcoming community events, including an Easter egg hunt held on Good Friday, 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2026, and a dog show scheduled for 4<sup>th</sup> May 2026 in support of Functional Neurological Disorder (FND). He also noted that Birchfield Community Centre would be celebrating its 50th anniversary, with events planned to mark the occasion.

Cllr W Read raised concerns regarding anti-social behaviour and theft at the Co-op stores in Westfield and St Michael's Avenue. The Chair of the Infrastructure (Property & Assets) Committee requested that the matter be referred to that Committee and the community team for further consideration.

There were no other reports from representatives on Outside Bodies.

**RESOLVED:** to note the reports.

### **11/333      SCHEME OF DELEGATION**

Council considered the recommendation from Finance & Policy Executive whose meeting was held on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026, regarding the agreeing and adoption of the revised Scheme of Delegation.

**RESOLVED:** to agree and adopt the revised Scheme of Delegation.

### **11/334      UPDATE ON PROGRESS OF POTENTIAL LEGAL CHALLENGE**

The Town Council received detailed legal advice from Birkett LLP regarding the closure of the Yeovil Hyper Acute Stroke Unit, which was summarised by the Chief Executive/Town Clerk. It was confirmed that a judicial review is no longer possible, as all relevant legal deadlines passed during 2024, 2025 and early 2026, and no exceptional circumstances apply. Previous requests for reconsideration, including two call-ins, were unsuccessful and the decision has been upheld by both the Somerset Integrated Care Board (ICB) and the Secretary of State.

While legal action is no longer viable, the Chief Executive/Town Clerk advised that a number of non-legal scrutiny options remain available. These include submitting a formal complaint to the Somerset ICB, making targeted Freedom of Information (FOI) requests, and submitting a complaint to the Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman. It was noted that a renewed call-in would only be possible if genuinely new information were to arise.

A Councillor stated the importance of holding the ICB to account through transparency and oversight. Support was expressed for pursuing targeted FOI requests. Concerns were raised regarding potential costs and council capacity, and Chief Executive/Town Clerk advised that FOI requests would be undertaken by solicitors at an estimated cost of £900–£1,500 to prepare, with additional costs dependent on the volume and analysis of information returned. Members were advised that a budget ceiling could be set.

A proposal was made and seconded to investigate the likely costs of legal support for FOI requests, including the analysis and dissemination of information, with the intention of progressing any further action via the urgent decision process once costs were known.

**RESOLVED:** (1) to note the verbal update alongside written report that had been circulated in advance of the meeting; and (2) to progress down the FOI route subject to the likely costs of legal support for analysis and dissemination of information (with the intention of progressing any further action via the Council's urgent business procedures (Standing Order 4 (d) (xvi))).

*8:03 pm - Cllr E Potts-Jones left the meeting and did not return.*

**11/265      PARISH WARD CHANGES**

Members considered the report of the Chief Executive/Town Clerk regarding parish ward changes.

**RESOLVED:** to note the report.

*Meeting closed at 8:05 pm.*

Signed:

Date: