



Yeovil Town Council

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Yeovil Town Council

The Meeting... **Yeovil Town Council**

The Time... **7.30pm**

The Date... **Tuesday 3 August 2010**

The Place... **Town House, 19 Union Street, Yeovil**

If you need this information in large print, Braille, audio or another language, please ring 01935 382424



QUALITY
TOWN
COUNCIL

Alan Tawse

Alan Tawse

Town Clerk

27 July 2010

Please contact Alan Tawse at the Town House for more information about this meeting

YEOVIL TOWN COUNCIL

Philip Chandler – Mayor of Yeovil

Clive Davis – Deputy Mayor

J Vincent Chainey

Bridget Dollard

Tony Fife

Julian Freke

Dave Gooding

Pete Goodman

John Grana

David Greene

Peter Gubbins

John Hann

Steve Hawker

Simon Hester

Andrew Kendall

Ruth Kendall

Mike Lock

Tony Lock

Ian Martin

Pat Martin

Tom Parsley

Wes Read

David Recardo

Alan Smith

AGENDA

Prayers

Grant Presentations

Public Comment (15 Minutes)

1. MINUTES

To confirm as a correct record the Minutes of the previous meeting held on 6 July 2010.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

4. MAYOR AND DEPUTY MAYOR'S RECENT AND FORTHCOMING ENGAGEMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

(See attached at pages 3 to 4)

5. CORRESPONDENCE

6. COMMUNITY JUSTICE PANEL

Val Keitch – Manger of the South Somerset Area Community Justice Panel will attend the meeting and give a short presentation on the success of the initiative to date and the introduction of a new scheme in Yeovil. A leaflet setting out the aims and objectives of the Panel has been circulated to all Members.

7. WINTER MAINTENANCE SERVICES 5 to 16

8. YEOVIL TOWN LADIES FC 17 to 18

9. STREET NAMING 19 to 20

10. APPOINTMENT TO COMMITTEES

Following the election of Councillor Mike Lock to the Town Council, members are **RECOMMENDED** to consider his appointment to serve on various committees. Mike's preferences will be reported to the meeting.

11. REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COMMITTEES AND OTHER MEETINGS

(The Minutes of the following meetings are open to discussion. Where a Committee has made a recommendation, that will be listed on a separate sheet circulated with the Agenda).

Planning and Licensing Committee

5 July 2010
19 July 2010

Grounds and General Maintenance Committee

12 July 2010

Promotions and Activities Committee

13 July 2010

Buildings and Civic Matters Committee

20 July 2010

Policy, Resources and Finance Committee

27 July 2010

12. REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

Yeovil Crematorium and Cemetery Committee

21 to 25

30 June 2010

Members who represent the Town Council on outside bodies may wish to take this opportunity to report on any matters of interest.

13. WAR MEMORIAL

The Town Clerk will give an update on developments following damage to the War Memorial in the Borough last month, and the arrangements that are being made for its repair.

Public Comment (15 Minutes)

List of Engagements attended/to be attended by His Worship The Mayor of Yeovil, Councillor Phil Chandler and the Deputy Mayor of Yeovil, Councillor Clive Davis from 6 July to 7 September 2010

07/07/10	The Mayor of Yeovil, Councillor Phil Chandler, attended BBC Radio Somerset in Taunton for a Mayor's week interview.
08/07/10	The Mayor of Yeovil, Councillor Phil Chandler, greeted the judges of Yeovil in Bloom
10/07/10	The Mayor of Yeovil, Councillor Phil Chandler, attended RNAS Yeovilton's International Air Day
10/07/10	The Deputy Mayor of Yeovil, Councillor Clive Davis, attended Preston Park Nursing Home's summer fete
10/07/10	The Mayor of Yeovil, Councillor Phil Chandler, attended a charity summer ball at Westland Leisure Complex
11/07/10	The Mayor of Yeovil, Councillor Phil Chandler, attended Elim Pentecostal Church Annual Graduation Service.
11/07/10	The Mayor of Yeovil, Councillor Phil Chandler, attended Frome Town Council's Civic Service
12/07/10	The Deputy Mayor of Yeovil, Councillor Clive Davis, judged "Who do you think you are" – a history project by Preston School and Oaklands Primary School
13/07/10	The Mayor of Yeovil, Council Phil Chandler, attended a photo call with Time Out Together
17/07/10	The Mayor of Yeovil, Councillor Phil Chandler, attended the Yeovil Railway Centre's 150 th anniversary celebrations
17/07/10	The Mayor and Deputy Mayor of Yeovil, Councillors Phil Chandler and Clive Davis, attended the 100 th anniversary celebrations of guiding
17/07/10	The Mayor of Yeovil, Councillor Phil Chandler, attended a Samaritans National Awareness event
18/07/10	The Mayor of Yeovil, Councillor Phil Chandler, and Deputy Mayor of Yeovil, Councillor Clive Davis, attended Grovelands Care Home Summer Fete
18/07/10	The Mayor of Yeovil, Councillor Phil Chandler, attended St Margaret's Somerset Hospice 30 years of caring service of celebration
24/07/10	The Mayor and Deputy Mayor of Yeovil, Councillor Phil Chandler and Clive Davis, attended a Royal British Legion fundraising tea and scones event
25/07/10	The Mayor of Yeovil, Councillor Phil Chandler, attended Yeovil Boys and Girls Brigade summer camp
27/07/10	The Mayor of Yeovil, Councillor Phil Chandler, attended the South Somerset Disability Forum and Yeovil Town Centre Partnership's Access Awards Presentation
30/07/10	The Mayor and Deputy Mayor of Yeovil, Councillor Phil Chandler and Clive Davis, will attend a Celebration of Guiding
31/07/10	The Mayor of Yeovil, Councillor Phil Chandler, and Deputy Mayor of Yeovil, Councillor Clive Davis, will attend Lark Community Association's fun day
02/08/10	The Mayor of Yeovil, Councillor Phil Chandler, will attend the celebration and officially re-opening of the new bus link between Yeovil Junction and Yeovil Pen Mill
03/08/10	The Mayor of Yeovil, Councillor Phil Chandler, will attend the South Somerset Citizen Advice Bureau's AGM
04/08/10	The Mayor of Yeovil, Councillor Phil Chandler, will attend Hinton Harvey Group's opening ceremony
07/08/10	The Mayor of Yeovil, Councillor Phil Chandler, will attend Wareham Town Council Civic Walkabout
08/08/10	The Mayor of Yeovil, Councillor Phil Chandler, will attend Burnham-on-Sea and Highbridge Annual Civic Service

10/08/10	The Mayor of Yeovil, Councillor Phil Chandler, will sponsor the ball at the YTFC –v- Crystal Palace FC match
14/08/10	The Mayor of Yeovil, Councillor Phil Chandler, will attend the summer fete at Somerset Care Residential Home
14/08/10	The Deputy Mayor of Yeovil, Councillor Clive Davis, will attend West Abbey Care Centre's garden party
22/08/10	The Mayor of Yeovil, Councillor Phil Chandler, will attend the Yeovil Allotment Association first Annual Show.
28/08/10	The Mayor of Yeovil, Councillor Phil Chandler, will attend Newtown Tenants' and Residents' Association's annual fete

7. WINTER MAINTENANCE SERVICES

County Council Review

The County Council's Scrutiny Committee met in May and considered a detailed report outlining that Authority's response to the severe winter weather conditions that were experienced at the beginning of this year.

This meeting was attended by the Town Clerk who raised a question, which was duly answered, about the County Council's policy on filling grit bins procured by town and parish councils. A copy extract of the minutes of that meeting are attached at pages 7 to 10.

The County Council has recently circulated the attached email and questionnaire (pages 11 to 16) to all town and parish councils across Somerset. This identifies a range of issues and considerations that the County Council need to take into account in planning and delivering this service as well as their experiences and performance in responding to this year's weather conditions. It also explains how the County Council currently prioritises its winter maintenance activity.

As part of the consultation process, the County Council has also organised a series of open evenings at which an appointed representative of each town and parish council will be able to learn about and contribute to a discussion about the way in which the County Council provides the service. There will be an opportunity to discuss some of the constraints that the Highway Authority is working under and whether any innovations or improvements can be made.

The open evening for this area is to be held between 6.30pm and 8.30pm on Thursday 19 August at the Area Highway Depot in Mead Avenue, Yeovil.

Grit Bins

As reported to the Buildings and Civic Matters Committee last month, the County Council have confirmed that all grit bins would be stocked prior to the commencement of winter, but there was no guarantee that they could be continually filled during inclement weather as resources might be needed elsewhere.

A survey of the 20 new sites agreed by that Committee has been undertaken in consultation with the Highway Authority and appropriate locations are being finalised for the new bins. A list of the agreed locations and those of the existing grit bins will be circulated to all Members.

The bins have now been delivered and will be installed by the Town Council later this year. The entire cost of procuring the bins has been met from the £3,000 kindly contributed by Cllr David Greene from his County Council local discretionary budget.

Arrangements have also been made for a reasonable supply of bagged salt to be purchased and retained at the Town Council's depot at Goar Knap for emergencies.

Council is **RECOMMENDED:**

- (1) to note the above-outlined developments;
- (2) to appoint a representative to attend and contribute to the forthcoming Winter Maintenance Open Evening on 19 August;
- (3) to comment on the matters set out in the attached email from the County Council's Area Highway Service Manager; and
- (4) to comment on the questions set out in the attached questionnaire.

(Alan Tawse, Town Clerk – 01935 382424)

The Scrutiny Committee

Minutes of a meeting of the Scrutiny Committee held on Tuesday 11 May 2010 from 10:00am in the Luttrell Room, County Hall, Taunton.

Present

Mr A Govier (in the Chair)

Mr D Alder	Mr S Gill
Mrs C Bakewell	Mr D Hall
Ms A Bown	Mr A Ham (Vice-Chairman)
Mr S Crabb	Mrs B Maitland-Walker
Mr R Forrest	Mrs J Shortland

Church representatives present:

Parent Governor representatives:

Cabinet Members present: Mr A Trollope-Bellew.

Other Members present: Mr J Bailey, Mrs J Kenton, Mr B Little and Mr T Lock.

Apologies: Mr D Clitheroe, Canon J Cunningham, Ms T Robinson and Mrs Hunt.

79 **Declarations of interest** – agenda item 2

79.0 Mr Govier, Ms A Bown, Mr S Crabb, Mr R Forrest, Mrs Shortland and all declared a personal interest as a District and/or City/Town, Parish Councillor.

79.1 The Member of the Cabinet present was invited to remain by the Committee to answer questions and provide explanation or clarification during the meeting.

80 **Minutes of the meeting held on 13 April 2010** – agenda item 3

80.0 The Committee agreed that the minutes of the last meeting held on 13 April 2010 were accurate, and the Chairman signed them.

81 **Public question time** – agenda item 4

81.0 The Committee heard a question from Mr Tawse the Yeovil Town Clerk who asked a question about grit bins. The Town Council was planning to purchase an additional 20 bins, having identified suitable locations, and it asked if the County Council would continue to provide de-icing materials. In response the Council undertook to continue its support in replenishing grit

bins provided by others, where resources permit. All bins would be stocked prior to the commencement of winter but there was no guarantee that they could be continually filled during inclement weather as resources might be needed elsewhere.

82 Review of Highway Winter Operations 2009/2010 – agenda item 5

- 82.0 The Committee considered this report that provided information about the work carried out in the delivery of Winter Service throughout the County during 2009/2010 and highlighted some of the major issues that occurred. The Cabinet Member – Environment introduced the report and he began by paying tribute to the hard work and endeavours of the highways teams that enabled many roads to remain open despite the worst winter and continuing poor weather conditions for 30 years.
- 82.1 It was reported that the Council had 138 operational staff many of whom along with others had worked 12 hour shifts. During December 2009 and January 2010 there had been over 35 consecutive days when the temperature dropped to below freezing. This resulted in the need to carry out over 100 actions for the second year running, compared to an average of 45 for each of the previous 5 years. The Council used over 13,000 tonnes of salt, an increase of 220% on average usage, and treated 188,000km of road network. Help had also been provided to Bath and Bath & North East Somerset Councils.
- 82.2 The report drew Members attention to an internal review that had been held on the 25 March 2010. This had included representatives from the Children and Young People's Directorate (CYPD), Transporting Somerset, Somerset Waste Partnership (SWP), Civil Contingencies, Community Directorate, Somerset Direct and Communications team. During the review members of the Highways team had been able to explain the limitations of salt supply and resources available to deliver treatment on the road network. They had also been able to explain the current policy and criteria used to define the pre-salting network.
- 82.3 The internal review would be followed by an operations review, to be carried out during the summer months, that would include:
- Accuracy of weather forecasts;
 - Analysis of plant performance (machinery including vehicles);
 - Performance Indicators;
 - Service provision (operations);
 - Procurement of deicer (salt);
 - Analysis of feedback from the National Highways and Transport (NHT) Customer Satisfaction Survey.
- 82.4 There was a question about the restriction of salt supplies and it was explained that in light of the falling reserves coupled with a surge in demand for salt the previous Government had introduced restrictions on the amount of salt made available to local authorities. Therefore, and in light of requests to

increase the size of the salting network, the Government would not encourage more salt usage on a larger network as they had directed an increased resilience by reducing salt usage. If each Council were to maximise its potential resilience the national problem could be properly addressed.

- 82.5 Members heard that the Council used a product called 'Safecote'. The enhanced coverage properties of Safecote had enabled a reduction of spread rates from 17grammes per square metre to 10grammes. During last winter the Council and its contractors Atkins had procured salt in December 2009 before rumours of a shortage emerged. Lorries had been sent to Cheshire to collect 2000 tonnes; this helped the Council to maintain treatment of its pre-salting network. Also for the second year a road de-icing material had been mixed with a salt by-product to boost Council reserves by over 50%.
- 82.6 There was a discussion about how the bad weather had affected all areas across Somerset and how the Council had been able to work with a number of partners and volunteers to ensure that main routes/roads were kept open and vulnerable people were safeguarded. It was reported that the Council had offered all parish and town councils 20kg bags of de-icing material to be collected free of charge from depots, to assist with self-help during freezing weather. There was only limited uptake of this offer when an invitation was sent out to each Parish Council in mid November, however during the cold weather the Council had been inundated with requests and at that time the logistics of moving bags and allowing access to working depots meant Officers were not able to accommodate all requests.
- 82.7 It was also noted that the Council was able to call on almost 100 farmer's ploughs and supplementary equipment and the Council's practice of using farmers to support the ploughing operation had received high profile publicity through an item on BBC TV's Regional Politics Show. This showed Somerset in an extremely good light and compared favorably to several neighbouring Councils that did not provide this service. Following difficulties during 2008/09 in contacting and directing this resource an agreement with BBC Somerset Sound to broadcast a call out message had enabled widespread contact in a short time period. Although initially this had limited benefits in calling out the farmers/contractors it did also identify several other contractors willing to give assistance.
- 82.8 Members heard that the Council had ensured that Officers in the highways team that were not able to do their normal work became involved with winter operations and they cleared pavements and acted as plough mates on the gritting vehicles. It was noted that four of the five District Council's were also able to offer substantial support and this was very noticeable in Taunton Deane where over 20 of their staff that were not able to carry out their normal duties were employed in the clearing of footpaths and spreading of salt. South Somerset was not able to divert staff to support winter maintenance during the worst weather; Officer discussions on arrangements for next winter were ongoing.

- 82.9 There was a brief discussion about the various concerns that had been expressed during the cold weather about public liability for householders and shopkeepers regarding snow clearance from the front of their properties. Members heard that Legal advice obtained from the Government indicated that provided any clearance did not make the situation worse there should be no claim, or it was unlikely for any claim to be successful, against the person clearing the snow/ice. It was suggested that more guidance and advice at times of bad weather such as having a shovel and a blanket in your car and to wear warm clothing and appropriate footwear, be included on the website and in leaflets next year.
- 82.10 It was noted that Durham NHS had provided funds to its County Council for clearing pavements during times of bad weather. Also Gloucestershire Council had a network of 300 snow wardens, and it was asked if a similar network be established in Somerset as part of the Council's self help provision.
- 82.11 The Committee agreed to:
- Request that a press release be issued to highlight the Committee's consideration of the Council's ongoing review of last years Winter Salting performance to identify improvements for the future;
 - Write a letter to the appropriate minister to seek clarification on the restriction of salt supplies to the Council;
 - Write a letter to the appropriate minister about red diesel as farmers are able to use snow ploughs on the highway but they are not allowed to salt the highway using vehicles that run on red diesel;
 - Request that the Council's Monitoring Officer clarify with the District Council colleagues the legal issues and advice given to all Council staff across Somerset during times of snow and ice concerning overall health and safety and the issue of insurance for grit bins;
 - Request that communications sent to District and Parish Councils also include the Association of Local Councils and these are reviewed so that clearer information is made available to them and updates are issued during the winter months.

(The meeting was adjourned from 11:55 to 12:05)

83 Brown and White Tourism Signs – Policy and Guidance notes – agenda item 6

- 83.0 The Committee considered this report about policy proposals that would be used to determine the application process and associated costs to applicants for tourism road signs in Somerset. It was noted that the brown and white tourism signs were not advertising for businesses, but an aid to help visitors by road from outside the area find establishments easily and safely at the end of their journey.
- 83.1 There was a discussion about the proposed application criteria and Members made observations and recommended amendments to the draft policy and guidance notes. In response to a question about the increase in cost to

applicants (from £200 to £250) it was explained that this would ensure the entire cost of providing signs was borne by the customer and not the taxpayer. Some Members thought the increase was too high and may dissuade some potential applicants.

- 83.2 It was reported the £250 cost would cover office costs, I.T., salaries and materials including a site visit and this would be paid in advance by the applicant before work started, and was non-refundable, thus preventing work being completed and not paid for and any legal costs. This approach would also provide a level of protection for the customer as the level of support and guidance that would be offered meant that any applications that would not succeed would be unlikely.
- 83.3 Consideration turned to the policy and guidance notes that had been attached to the report as Appendix A and there was a question about the proposed 'ongoing monitoring of facilities' to ensure they were still eligible for a tourism sign. It was explained that this would be carried out but would not be too draconian and had been included to allow the Council to ensure that the business was still open and trading and a sign was therefore still required/appropriate. So for example visitor numbers would not be checked that closely.
- 83.4 Regarding the rural restaurants and cafes eligibility criteria there was a question about the 'historical importance' and 'culinary significance' elements. It was explained that this would not be an initial criteria for a road sign but verification of such achievements as a 'Michelin star' or being in the 'Good Pub Guide' would have to be provided by the applicant. Some Members expressed concern that this would possibly be elitist and may dissuade some potential applicants.
- 83.5 It was suggested that rather than have the administrative difficulty and cost of establishing a bond (to cover the cost to the Council of removing a sign – should it be required) that a cash deposit be held instead. It was also suggested that regarding the facilities listed to show which establishments were eligible for a sign in the policy and guidance notes that rural Post Offices and village shops be included.
- 83.6 There was a brief discussion about the involvement of local Members in the in application process and also if Parish Councils should be consulted. It was explained that the guidance notes would ensure that all roads across Somerset would from now on adhere to the same principles in respect of tourism signing. The proposed guidelines would also ensure fairness and best value, both for the Council and the applicant, with a standard approach being taken in all cases. An openly consistent approach would be fair to all whilst protecting the rural environment of the County against an over proliferation of signs.
- 83.7 Regarding the consultation process it was also reported that consultations had been undertaken with the following neighbouring Councils: Bath and North East Somerset, Devon, Dorset, North Somerset and Wiltshire, all of

which bordered Somerset, to ensure that the proposed guidelines complimented and did not conflict with the guidelines of other Councils. It was reported that Avon & Somerset Police Traffic Management Unit fully supported the proposed guidelines and discussions with Area Traffic Engineers, Technicians and other members of staff were also undertaken to refine the processes.

- 83.8 The Cabinet Member for Environment thanked the Committee for its suggested amendments to the proposed application criteria. It was anticipated that the Cabinet Member would make a decision so these new criteria would come in to effect within the next few months.

84 Cabinet Forward Plan – agenda item 7

- 84.0 The Committee considered the Cabinet's forward plan that included details of key decisions to be taken up to 21 June 2010. There was a brief discussion about the Energy Generation Policy report and it was noted that this would be on the agenda for the Committee's 29 June meeting before it was considered at the 21 July Council meeting.

85 Scrutiny work programme – agenda item 8

- 85.0 The Committee considered and accepted the Scrutiny work programme.

86 Any other business of urgency – agenda item 9

- 86.0 There being no other business the Chairman thanked all those present for attending and reminded Members that the next meeting was scheduled for 29 June 2010.

(The meeting ended at 12:56)

**Scrutiny Committee Chairman
Andrew Govier**

From: "County Roads - South Som" <countyroads-southsom@somerset.gov.uk>

Subject: winter maintenance questionnaire, parish

Date: 21/07/10 11:01

Dear Parish Clerk

Winter Maintenance Questionnaire - Parish

I am writing to request your Parish's input into a review of 2009/10 winter maintenance services.

Each year, those responsible for highways review Somerset County Council's winter maintenance activity and plan ahead for the following winter. Last winter we tackled some exceptional winter conditions and the County Council has received compliments from local residents across the County praising the hard work of our winter maintenance teams. However, there will also be some lessons we can learn and things we might look to do differently in future.

It is intended to hold an open evening on the 19th August at your local Highway Depot, Mead Avenue, Houndstone Business Park, Yeovil between 18:30hrs and 20:30hrs where we can explain the way we provide the service and discuss some of the constraints we are working under and see if any innovations or improvements can be made. A representative from your Parish Council is invited to attend and contribute at this meeting.

Prior to the meeting I thought it might be useful to provide you with some background about how Somerset County Council currently prioritises its winter maintenance activity.

It is generally accepted that to grit all of Somerset's 6600km of road would be financially, and practically, unachievable. With its allocated winter budget of £1.3 million, Somerset County Council has to make some difficult decisions about which roads to treat. It is worth noting that this budget is designed to cater for a "normal" Somerset winter. Last winter, we spent about £2 million to provide an essential gritting service to keep the County moving safely.

Somerset County Council produces a Winter and Emergency Plan each year and the current plan runs from 1st October 2009 to 30th September 2010. The plan describes the procedures to be followed by those responsible for providing the service under the contract agreement between Somerset County Council and Atkins.

The roads that are to be treated for precautionary salting are detailed in the Winter and Emergency Policy Plan, our Winter Service Leaflet and are on our web site. These most important routes are pre-salted when icy conditions are expected.

Criteria have been developed to enable the pre-salting network to be defined. This is required to ensure a consistent approach across the County and achieve a reasonable balance between cost and level of service. During 2009 a review of the pre-salting network was carried out using the following criteria:-

- Strategic and County Routes
- Freight Routes
- Emergency Location Links
- Adjoining Counties Links
- Major Settlement Links
- Settlements above 500 feet Links
- Urban/Rural School Links (Major)

During extended periods of cold weather or snow (defined as being in existence for greater than 24 hours), roads providing access to other settlements off the precautionary salting routes are treated on an "as needs" basis, within the resources available, once the precautionary salting network is clear.

Localised treatment of other roads will be carried out in order to deal with safety or access problems. This will also be carried out on an "as needs" basis, within the resources available once the above networks are clear.

Known hazardous situations on footways and cycleways will be treated in a priority order as and when resources permit. As these are not on our priority routes, conditions would have to have been in existence for more than 24 hours and be forecast to last for several days. This combined with the level of resources that are available and other demands on them, means that most footways are generally unlikely to be treated. All users should be reminded to take due regard of the conditions that they find and exercise great caution. Last winter we did have good cooperation from the District Councils and their staff who could not carry out their normal duties (grounds maintenance for example)

and who did clear some footpaths and spread salt/grit to give assistance to residents.

There were many concerns regarding public liability for householders and shopkeepers who cleared the snow from the front of their premises. Legal advice is that so long as the clearance does not make the situation worse there should be no claim against the person doing the action. It is intended to incorporate more guidance on the website and in the winter service leaflet next year.

Local and regional media are engaged to promote such safety messages.

Facts and Figures for Winter 2009/10

- * 138 operational staff were regularly involved in delivering the winter service.
- * 96 gritter drivers and 42 duty contacts, scouts and others worked around the clock in the snow periods on 12-hour shifts, (there were also 24 reserve drivers who were on standby).
- * 151 forecasts made, checked and actioned.
- * 13201 tonnes of salt used (220% increase on average usage).
- * 94 full actions and 22 seepage only actions.
- * 188,000km of treated network (=4 x the circumference of the earth).
- * 15,500 hours worked by gritter drivers this winter.

Over the past two winter seasons, the UK has experienced salt shortages as a result of extended periods of winter weather. On each of these occasions, the situation was severe enough to warrant the initiation of the Government coordination unit 'Salt Cell'. Salt Cell 2010 compiled information from all UK Highway Winter Service Authorities, provided delivery advice to salt suppliers to ensure no authority ran out of salt completely and provided information which supported decisions to request salt efficiency savings.

After such a prolonged period requiring heavy salting treatment, national salt stocks have only recently started to recover. On the 15th March, the UK salt stockpile stood at less than 330,000 tonnes. The stockholding requirements of all Highway Authorities going into next season indicate that there will be a national deficit in the region of 250,000 tonnes at the start of November 2010.

With UK salt mines already running at full capacity, the only way to acquire extra supplies would be to secure salt from overseas. However, indications are that many other countries in Europe are in a similar position to the UK as they also experienced a colder than average winter. These countries have already begun to procure supplies restricting the amount available for the UK market.

Increased pre-season salt stocks merely buys time rather than resolves the structural shortfall between UK production and UK consumption of salt and any Authority with reserves would be expected to provide mutual aid to others during times of shortage.

In light of this, as well as looking to increase pre-season stocks, it is vital that consideration is also given to increasing resilience through more efficient salt usage.

SCC currently uses "Safecote", which is rocksalt covered with molasses, (an agricultural bi-product), which has allowed the Council to reduce spread rates down from 17grammes per square metre to 10g/m² due to its enhanced coverage properties.

It is only by maximising potential resilience within each Authority that the national problem can be properly addressed.

During last winter Somerset County Council and its contractors, Atkins, were proactive in securing salt in December 2009 before rumours of a shortage emerged. Lorries were sent to Cheshire to collect 2000 tonnes, this helped Somerset enormously in maintaining treatment to its published network. For the second year running we again mixed road de-icing material with a salt by-product to boost our reserves by over 50% and a further 500 tonnes of salt was sourced from an additional supplier.

This winter, as a one off, we offered all parish and town councils 20kg bags of de-icing material which could be collected free of charge from our depots which allowed self-help during freezing weather. These bags were produced in-house from county stocks of de-icing material left over from the innovation employed during last years salt shortages. There was only limited uptake of this offer when an invitation was sent in mid November. However during the cold spell the County Council was inundated with requests. The logistics of moving bags and allowing access to working depots meant we were not able to accommodate all requests.

For many years town and parish councils have been able to purchase grit bins and site at locations with the agreement of the Highway Authority to allow self-help. The town or parish purchase the bin but we undertake to replenish with

de-icing material as it is used. Whilst this does not devolve the responsibility of winter service to another authority it allows joint working in areas where self-help will be beneficial.

At the start of the 2009/10 year, 21% of Somerset's roads were identified as our first priority for salting (also known as the primary salting network). This includes many B roads, and covers all of the main routes across the County. However, up until the week of severe national salt shortages in January, Somerset Highways were consistently gritting up to 35% of the entire road network - otherwise known as its secondary salting network.

Somerset County Council has a statutory duty to make safe as much of the Highway network as it possibly can, with the resources it has available. Adding roads to the salting network would require extra budget, not only for salt, but potentially for extra gritters, labour and salt barns.

One of the greatest challenges we face for the future will be to look at how the county of Somerset works together to keep people moving.

We would welcome your views on how you feel we performed last winter and what ideas you have about how we might work better together in the future. A survey for you to complete is enclosed but please do not complete until after the open evening if you are attending. If you will not be attending please send your completed questionnaire to the area office at the address above.

Yours sincerely

Scott Davies
Highway Service Manager

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8. YEOVIL TOWN LADIES FC

The Yeovil Town Ladies FC recently won promotion to the equivalent of the Championship level in men's football, and the Committee is requested to consider how it wishes to recognise this achievement.

The first team forms part of a wider club that has over 100 registered players – including 5 youth teams, and all of this structure depends on volunteers. None of the players or staff members is paid.

A summary of the organisation of the Club and its achievements, which has been provided by the Quedam Centre (which sponsors the Team) is attached on page 18.

The Promotions and Activities Committee acknowledged the achievements of the Club at their meeting last month, and agreed that recognition of their success would be appropriate.

The Committee felt that before making a decision, the views of the Chairman of Yeovil Town FC be sought regarding a suitable form of award. He has now responded and suggested a Certificate of Recognition.

The Team's opening match of the 2010/11 season in their new division is at home to Cardiff City Ladies FC on Sunday 22 August.

Council is **RECOMMENDED** to note the achievement of the first team players and coaching staff of Yeovil Town Ladies FC, and to consider how it wishes to recognise their recent success having regard to the views of the Promotions and Activities Committee and the Chairman of Yeovil Town FC.

(Alan Tawse, Town Clerk – 01935 382424)

Who are Yeovil Town Ladies?

1. The club has 115 registered players and a 15 strong coaching staff qualified from FA Level 1 to UEFA level 3
2. The club is part of the Yeovil Town Community Sports Trust and is part of the wider Yeovil Town Football Club family with very strong support and association with YTFC and the League One team.
3. The club has seven teams. The first and reserve teams plus five youth teams (starting from Under 10's)
4. Apart from local persons, players from as far away as the Weston Super Mare and Exeter areas play for the club.
5. All staff and players are volunteers and the club is effectively self financed via fundraising and sponsorship
6. The club has its own web site at www.yeoviltownladies.com

What does Yeovil Town Ladies try to do?

- 1 To maximise the opportunities for females to play or coach football in the Yeovil area by operating a first team at the highest possible level within women's football and at the same time running a successful youth set up (and doing all of this within a well managed and financially stable structure).
2. To operate Youth teams designed primarily to maximise participation and skills as opposed to winning games.
3. To aspire to achieve the highest standards of player welfare and respect.

What was achieved recently?

1. The first team has achieved promotion to the Tesco Premier League Southern Division — which is the second tier in women's football (equivalent to Championship level in the Football League). This means that Yeovil Town Ladies will be playing teams like West Ham and Cardiff City next year.
2. Jemma Tewkesbury set a record for the Division in respect of league goals scored (39) and total goals scored (46).

Summary

Yeovil Town Ladies FC is an example of how, with limited resources, a local team of volunteers can create an environment that both benefits local young persons by giving them an opportunity to engage in constructive activities, whilst at the same time achieving sporting success that reflects well nationally on the Town of Yeovil.

9. **STREET NAMING REQUEST**

A request has recently been received from South Somerset District Council for the Council's suggestions on an appropriate name for the new access road to the new development off Old Station Way (Foundry House site). The location of the road is shown on the attached draft plan (page 20).

The developer has no proposals. However, the suggested name(s) must not be similar to any existing road names.

Council is **RECOMMENDED** to consider the request and to put forward their views.

(Alan Tawse, Town Clerk – 01935 382424)

Minutes of a meeting of **Yeovil Crematorium and Cemetery Committee** held in the Council Chamber, Town House, 19 Union Street, Yeovil on **Wednesday 30 June 2010**

(6.00pm – 6.55pm)

Present:

Ruth Kendall	Chairman
Peter Dutton	Brympton Parish Council
John Hann	Yeovil Town Council
Alf Hill	Yeovil Without Parish Council
Alan Smith	Yeovil Town Council
Barbara Strong	Yeovil Without Parish Council
Reverend Ed Bangay	Clergy Representative (non-voting)

Also Present:

Alan Tawse	Clerk to the Committee
Joy Coombs	Administration Manager
Tom Pullin	Operations Manager
Glenn Ford	Cemetery Foreman
Ian Johns	Property Management Team Leader
Paula Jeffery	Management Accountant

(1) Public Comment

There were no comments from the public.

(2) Election of Chairman

It was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED: that Ruth Kendall be elected Chairman of the Committee for the Municipal Year 2010/11.

(3) Appointment of Vice-Chairman

It was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED: that Alan Smith be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Committee for the Municipal Year 2010/11.

(4) Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 14 April 2010, copies of which had been circulated, were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

(5) Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Julian Freke and Clive Wakely.

(6) Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

(7) Final Accounts 2009/10

The Committee considered the report of the Management Accountant (agenda item 6 refers).

The Management Accountant drew attention at the meeting to a number of matters including the liability for VAT that had arisen during the year.

During the ensuing discussion, Members requested clarification of a variety of issues to which the officers responded.

- RESOLVED:**
- (1) that the matter be noted;
 - (2) that the draft Statement of Accounts be approved;
 - (3) that the Audit Commission return – in particular Section 1 on the Statement of Accounts and Section 2 on the Statement of Annual Governance - be approved;
 - (4) that the independent audit report which accompanied Section 3 of the Audit Commission return be noted;
 - (5) that the transfer of the general underspend which occurred in the Cemetery's budget to the reserve, be noted;
 - (6) that the transfer of the general underspend which occurred in the Crematorium's budget to South Somerset District Council (89%) and to the Yeovil Without Parish Council reserve (11%), be noted;

- (7) that the amendment of the reserves to document the Crematoria Abatement of Mercury Emissions Organisation (CAMEO) scheme reserve held by South Somerset District Council be noted;
 - (8) that the capital expenditure on the Cemetery and Crematorium be noted; and
 - (9) that the capital programmes for 2010/11 onwards be noted.
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(8) Cemetery Capital Programme

The Committee considered the report of the Property Management Team Leader (agenda item 7 refers).

Members were advised that the construction of the new access ramp to the Cemetery Lodge was due to begin in August/September this year, and would be completed prior to the planned increase in the rate of VAT.

During the ensuing discussion, reference was made to the need for the Cemetery Office and other internal accommodation on the ground floor of the Cemetery Lodge to be redecorated in the near future, with the cost involved being met from the repairs and maintenance budget.

- RESOLVED:**
- (1) that the matters be noted;
 - (2) that the position concerning the new access ramp to the Cemetery Lodge be noted and the Property Management Team Leader be authorised to proceed with acceptance of the lowest quotation previously received provided that the contractor is willing to adhere to their original submitted price; and
 - (3) that approval be given to the redecoration of the Cemetery Office and other internal accommodation on the ground floor of the Cemetery Lodge in the near future, with the cost involved being met from the repairs and maintenance budget.
-

(9) Crematorium Capital Programme

The Committee considered the report of the Property Management Team Leader (agenda item 8 refers).

A breakdown of proposed chapel extension works totalling £64,155 was circulated at the meeting. This included the repositioning of the dividing stained glass screen and the installation of an electronically operated sliding folding partition in its place.

The Management Accountant indicated that there was currently no provision in the Capital Programme to meet the costs involved, and it was noted that if the Committee wished to proceed with the project, it would be necessary to either review the commitments in the existing Programme or to seek additional funds from the relevant authorities.

Details of the estimated costs of installing a rainwater holding tank totalling £11,844 were also circulated at the meeting.

During the ensuing discussion, reference was made to the possibility of reducing the costs of the proposed chapel extension works by disposing of the stained glass screen.

Members considered the merits of the proposed rainwater holding tank and the likely financial savings that would accrue from its installation.

- RESOLVED:** (1) that the matters be noted; and
- (2) that further consideration be given to the proposed projects and funding options at the next meeting of the Committee.
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(10) Bunford Lane – Pedestrian Crossing

The Committee considered the report of the Clerk to the Committee (agenda item 9 refers).

- RESOLVED:** that the matter be noted.
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(11) Exclusion of Press and Public

RESOLVED: that the press and public be excluded from the meeting for consideration of the following item in accordance with Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 on the grounds that publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

(12) Staffing Issues

The Committee considered the confidential report of the Clerk to the Committee (agenda item 10 refers).

RESOLVED: that the developments be noted.

Following the Committee's tour of the Cemetery and the Crematorium, Members expressed their thanks to all the staff for all their hard work in maintaining the facilities at both locations to a high standard.

Chairman.....