

## **YEOVIL TOWN COUNCIL**

**MINUTES** of the meeting of **YEOVIL TOWN COUNCIL** held in the Council Chamber, Town House, 19 Union Street, Yeovil on **Tuesday 7 December 2010**

(7.30pm to 10.20pm)

### **Present:**

Philip Chandler – Mayor	John Hann
J Vincent Chainey	Steve Hawker
Clive Davis	Ruth Kendall
Bridget Dollard	Mike Lock
Julian Freke	Tony Lock
Pete Goodman	Tom Parsley
John Grana	Wes Read
Dave Greene	David Recardo
Peter Gubbins	Alan Smith

### **Also present:**

Alan Tawse                      Town Clerk

### **PRAYERS**

Reverend Howard Davenport led the Council in prayers on behalf of the Townspeople of Yeovil.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There were no comments from members of the public.

### 7/559 **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the previous meeting held on 2 November 2010, copies of which had been circulated, were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

### 7/560 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Tony Fife, Dave Gooding, Andrew Kendall, Ian Martin and Pat Martin.

### 7/561 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Mike Lock declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Agenda item 13 (Former Goldcroft Allotment Site) by virtue of his ownership of the Company that had agreed to purchase the land.

### 7/562 **MAYOR AND DEPUTY MAYOR'S RECENT AND FORTHCOMING ENGAGEMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Details of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor's recent and forthcoming engagements and announcements were attached to the Agenda.

The Mayor thanked everyone who had supported his recent charity ball, which had raised funds for his two chosen charities; the St Margaret's Yeovil Hospice and the Yeovil Night Shelter.

#### 7/563 **CORRESPONDENCE**

The Town Clerk reported receipt of the following items of correspondence:-

- Message of thanks from the Chairman of South Somerset District Council for the Town Council's assistance in helping to organise and support the March of Honour Service in The Borough on Sunday 7 November
- South Somerset News – Winter 2010
- Yeovil Federation Newsletter – November 2010

#### 7/564 **MILFORD HALL CHARGES**

Council considered the report of the Town Clerk (Agenda item 6 refers).

A summary of comparative charges levied by other hall operators in the Milford area was circulated at the meeting along with an extract from the written agreement with South Somerset District Council regarding the setting of charges to community groups using Milford Hall.

The Town Clerk indicated that the relevant minute of the Buildings and Civic Matters Committee on this matter (Minute 7/278) had inadvertently omitted a further resolution, which had been agreed by that Committee, namely:

*(7) in preparation for the setting of the 2012/13 budget, that a further review of hire charges six months be carried out after the re-opening of the Hall – when new usage patterns had become established - with a view to making recommendations to the 2012/13 budget-setting process on a charging policy that reflects and encourages the use of the Hall by the local community and other hire groups.*

During the ensuing discussion, reference was made to the need to adopt a charging policy which recovered an increasing proportion of the costs of operating the hall from hall users. However, it was acknowledged that such a policy needed to recognise the ability of some sections of the local community to meet the hire charges, and it was felt that the decision of the Buildings and Civic Matters Committee to carry out a further review six months after the re-opening of the hall would provide an ideal opportunity to re-examine the policy taking all of these factors into account.

#### **RESOLVED**

- (1) that the matter be noted; and
- (2) that the proposed charges for the use of Milford Hall with effect from 1 January 2011 (from 1 April 2011 in respect of non-profit making organisations) be approved and adopted.

## 7/565 **MONMOUTH HALL CHARGES**

Council considered the report of the Town Clerk (Agenda item 7 refers).

### **RESOLVED**

that the proposed charges for the use of Monmouth Hall with effect from 1 April 2011 be approved and adopted.

## 7/566 **ESTIMATES 2011/12**

The Chairman of the Policy, Resources and Finance Committee referred to the budget cuts that were currently under discussion by the County Council and the District Council and suggested that consideration of the setting of the Town's precept be deferred until the next meeting of the Town Council by which time it was hoped that the nature and extent of any such proposals that affected Yeovil Town could be reported to Members and discussed as part of the final 2011/12 budget setting process.

Reference was made to the possibility of the service committees further reviewing their draft budgets should the Town Council feel that additional resources needed to be found from such budgets to help fund services currently delivered by the principal authorities in Yeovil Town that were under threat. The Town Clerk drew attention to the New Initiatives budget, which he suggested could be used for this purpose.

Attention was drawn to the 2.5% additional grant made by Central Government to principal authorities this year to help such authorities implement a council tax freeze in 2011/12. It was pointed out this arrangement had not been extended to town and parish councils, which put extra pressure on their ability to maintain local services without increasing their share of the council tax.

### **RESOLVED**

- (1) that the setting of the Town's precept for 2011/12 be deferred and reconsidered at the next meeting of the Town Council;
- (2) that the letters from the Chief Executive of Somerset County Council and from the Assistant Director – Finance and Corporate Services of South Somerset District Council, the timing of which it is felt is too early in the budget process to make provision for funding services currently provided by other local authorities, be noted and both Authorities be advised accordingly;
- (3) that, with regard to the approach from the District Council, it be further noted that the Town Council already made a substantial annual contribution to the District Council towards the ongoing maintenance of open spaces and amenity facilities across the Town, and that Authority be reminded of this allocation;
- (4) that the responses of both Authorities be reported to the January meeting of the Town Council, at which consideration be given to ways

by which additional resources could be made available to help fund any services currently delivered by the principal authorities in Yeovil Town that were under threat and which the Town Council wished to help support;

- (5) that should the Town Council wish to allocate additional resources to help fund such services and it was felt that the funding needed to be found from the service committees' draft budgets, arrangements be made for the service committees to further review their draft budgets for this purpose during the January cycle of meetings, and their recommendations be submitted to the Policy, Resources and Finance Committee and the Town Council;
- (6) that the possibility of setting the Town's precept at the next following meeting of the Town Council to be held on 1 February 2011, if necessary, be investigated and Members be advised of the outcome at an early date; and
- (7) that should it not be possible to delay setting the precept until 1 February 2011, arrangements be made for a special meeting of the Town Council to be held, if necessary, for this purpose in late January 2011 instead.

#### 7/567 **YEOVIL VISION**

Council considered the report of the Town Clerk (Agenda item 9 refers).

During the ensuing discussion, reference was made to the projects that had been delivered with the support of the Yeovil Vision initiative and those that were currently under discussion. The Chairman of the Policy, Resources and Finance Committee drew attention to ways by which the Board had helped secure inward investment, which in turn had helped to meet the cost of such projects.

Reference was also made to the need for regular summaries of the progress of the initiative to be drafted by the District Council and circulated to Members to help keep them informed of developments. It was also felt that a further presentation needed to be made to a future meeting by a representative of the District Council setting out the timetable, ambition and plans for the future prior to a decision being made about the release of the budget allocation provisionally made by the Town Council towards the Yeovil Vision in 2010/11.

Members also discussed the draft terms of reference, which it was felt needed to reflect the offices held by the individuals who represented each of the partner organisations on the Board rather than their names.

#### **RESOLVED**

- (1) that the matter be noted;
- (2) that arrangements be made for regular summaries of the progress of the initiative to be drafted by the District Council and circulated to Members to help keep them informed of developments;

- (3) that a further presentation be made to a future meeting by a representative of the District Council setting out the timetable, ambition and plans for the future prior to a decision being made about the release of the budget allocation provisionally made by the Town Council towards the Yeovil Vision in 2010/11; and
- (4) that the District Council be advised of the Town Council's view that the draft terms of reference needed to reflect the offices held by the individuals who represented each of the partner organisations on the Board rather than their names.

**7/568 AREA SOUTH COMMUNITY SAFETY ACTION WORKSHOP**

Council considered the report of the Town Clerk (Agenda item 10 refers).

**RESOLVED**

- (1) that the matter be noted; and
- (2) that Bridget Dollard be appointed to attend the forthcoming workshop on 10 January 2011.

**7/569 REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COMMITTEES AND OTHER MEETINGS**

The Chairmen of the various Committees of the Council presented the Minutes from the previous cycle of meetings, drawing attention to specific references to Council, any matters of particular interest and answering any questions.

**Planning and Licensing Committee**

25 October 2010  
8 November 2010  
22 November 2010

**Grounds and General Maintenance Committee**

1 November 2010

**Promotions and Activities Committee**

9 November 2010

**Buildings and Civic Matters Committee**

16 November 2010

Minute - 7/273 - New Initiatives Budget

**RESOLVED**

that funding be allocated from the New Initiatives Budget for the purchase, installation and planning permission for the notice boards in the following locations:

- *Westfield (location to be decided in consultation with ward members and the community association)*
- *Birchfield (Monmouth Hall)*
- *Milford (Milford Hall)*
- *Forest Hill (shopping precinct)*
- *Plus two other locations under consideration*

### **Policy, Resources and Finance Committee**

23 November 2010

Minute - 7/296 - New Initiatives Budget

### **RESOLVED**

that the revised proposals at an estimated cost of £6,770 be approved.

### **7/570 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES**

The Minutes of the following meetings of Outside Bodies were attached to the Agenda and Members were given an opportunity to raise matters relating to them:

#### **Yeovil Twinning Association**

9 September 2010

#### **Yeovil Youth Council**

18 October 2010

#### **Yeovil Crematorium and Cemetery committee**

20 October 2010

Members who represented the Town Council on outside bodies were given an opportunity to report on any matters of interest.

David Recardo drew attention to a number of issues that had been considered at a recent meeting of the South Somerset Countryside Steering Group, on which he represented the Town Council.

He also referred to a recent twinning visit to Taunusstein, which had been undertaken by a number of members of the Yeovil Twinning Association.

### **7/571 PUBLIC COMMENT**

In response to a query, David Recardo clarified the species of rare plant recently discovered in Yeovil Country Park.

7/572 **EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

**RESOLVED**

that the press and public be excluded from the remainder of the meeting 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.

7/573 **FORMER SKI AND ACTIVITY CENTRE**

The Committee considered the confidential report of the Town Clerk (Agenda item 12 refers).

During the ensuing discussion, Members considered the proposals submitted by the Council's property agents and the merits of various suggested options for the future use of the site.

**RESOLVED**

- (1) that the further recent developments in this matter be noted;
- (2) that the Town Clerk, in consultation with the Former Ski and Activity Centre Steering Group, be requested to make representations to the Planning Authority seeking the inclusion of the site in the emerging masterplan for the nearby urban village; and
- (3) that the possible use of the site for alternative purposes pending its future redevelopment be investigated

*(John Grana requested that his vote against the passing of Resolution (2) be recorded).*

7/574 **FORMER GOLDCROFT ALLOTMENT SITE**

*(Mike Lock, having declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the following item, left the meeting during its consideration and took no part in the discussion and voting thereon).*

The Committee considered the confidential report of the Town Clerk (Agenda item 13 refers).

The Town Clerk drew attention to recent further developments that had taken place concerning the proposed disposal of the above land, and circulated copy correspondence sent by the Council's Solicitor to the Purchaser's Solicitor regarding the planned exchange of contracts.

**RESOLVED**

- (1) that the further recent developments in this matter be noted;
- (2) that the purchaser be given until 31 January 2011 to exchange contracts at the agreed price, it being recognised that it is the responsibility of the

purchaser to address and resolve at his expense any issues arising from the existence of the badger sett on the land; and

- (3) that should the purchaser, in the interim, submit a lower bid, the Town Council reserves the right to invite offers from other interested parties.

7/575 **MAYOR'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE**

The Mayor took the opportunity to wish all Members and Officers the compliments of the season.

Mayor