

## YEOVIL TOWN COUNCIL

**MINUTES** of the meeting of **YEOVIL TOWN COUNCIL** held in the Council Chamber, Town House, 19 Union Street, Yeovil on **Tuesday 2 February 2010**

(7.30pm to 8.35pm)

### **Present:**

Wes Read – Mayor	Dave Greene
J Vincent Chainey	John Hann
Philip Chandler	Steve Hawker
Clive Davis	Andrew Kendall
Bridget Dollard	Tony Lock
Tony Fife	Ian Martin
Julian Freke	Pat Martin
Dave Gooding	Tom Parsley
Pete Goodman	David Recardo
John Grana	Alan Smith

### **Also present:**

Alan Tawse	Town Clerk
Ian Budd	Town Centre Manager

### **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.

### **GRANT PRESENTATIONS**

The Mayor presented a grant cheque to representatives of the following organisation for the purposes indicated:

<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Purpose</b>
Sutton Bingham and District Canoe Club	£1,000	Towards purchase of a fleet of specialist boats

### 7/425 **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the previous meeting held on 5 January 2010, copies of which had been circulated, were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

7/426 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from John Cruddas, Peter Gubbins and Ruth Kendall.

7/427 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

7/428 **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.

7/429 **CORRESPONDENCE**

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

- Letters of thanks from Breatheability and the Young Musical Theatre Group regarding recent grant awards
- South Somerset Voluntary and Community Action (SSVCA) Newsletter – January 2010
- Yeovil Federation Director's Report – December 2009
- The Ramblers – Somerset Area – 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Report and Accounts
- Trees – Journal of the International tree Foundation – January/February 2010
- Thatch – Community Council for Somerset Newsletter – Autumn 2009

7/430 **TOWN CENTRE MANAGEMENT - PRESENTATION**

Ian Budd, Town Centre Manager attended the meeting and gave a presentation on the progress of the Town Centre Partnership and the work of the Town Centre Manager over the past year.

A summary of achievements and events organised over the last twelve months was attached to the Agenda along with details of the key performance indicators.

Ian drew attention at the meeting to a number of ongoing and planned activities - including the West Hendford Car Park Arts Project, which was being funded with a grant secured by the Yeovil Youth Council and which would be undertaken by young people during the forthcoming half-term break.

He confirmed that new town centre leaflets incorporating plans that highlighted the location of individual businesses and other key stakeholders were due to be delivered later that week and would be circulated to convenient distribution points throughout the Town.

Ian also referred to the feasibility study currently being carried out into the Business Improvement Districts (BID's) initiative, and indicated that

arrangements would be made for a Members' Workshop to be organised in the near future.

Reference was also made to the development of a new website, which was due to be launched over the coming months and which would be used to help promote the Town and the Town Centre Partnership.

Attention was also drawn to discussions that were taking place to attract a farmers' market to the Town and it was indicated that a number of provisional dates had been identified.

Finally, Ian outlined the work that had been undertaken to utilise the windows of empty shops in the Town for the purpose of promoting a photographic competition pending their re-opening to new businesses.

During the ensuing discussion, Members expressed their support for the work that was being undertaken by the Town Centre Partnership and the Town Centre Manager, and their plans for the future.

Turning to the key performance indicators, Members commented on the need to ensure that future surveys included a broader age range, and to the changing face of the Town's night-time economy.

The Mayor thanked Ian for his interesting and informative presentation, and it was

## **RESOLVED**

that the matter be noted.

### **7/431 PROMOTIONS AND ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE**

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

Members noted the comments expressed by all the service committees and the Policy, Resources and Finance Committee on the matter, and supported the need for a wide-ranging review to be undertaken ahead of this year's Annual Meeting of the Town Council in May.

## **RESOLVED**

- (1) that a comprehensive review be undertaken of all of the Council's service committees to establish whether all four committees are necessary and whether the responsibilities are equitably spread and correctly allocated; and
- (2) that a working group comprising the Chairmen of the four service committees, the Chairman of the Policy, Resources and Finance Committee and the Mayor, be requested to undertake the review and report its findings back to the March 2010 meeting of the Policy, Resources and Finance Committee, and the April 2010 meeting of the Town Council.

## 7/432 **SEVERE WEATHER**

At the suggestion of David Recardo and in light of the recent severe weather conditions, the Town Council was invited to comment on ways by which the local authorities responsible for snow clearance and gritting might improve their responses for future incidents – including the provision of information to the public and temporary changes to public transport arrangements.

Attention was drawn to steps that South Somerset District Council had recently taken – following the adoption of a motion - to initiate a joint review of the level of resources made available by Somerset County Council (as the Highway Authority) to deal with snow and ice clearance across the South Somerset District during this period; and of that Authority's strategic network for salting and gritting routes – including key strategic footways in larger settlements.

It was noted that the District Council had called upon the District, the County Council and all other appropriate bodies to work together to assess the quality and quantity of their response and to remedy any shortfalls identified as soon as possible.

The Town Clerk explained that whilst the Town Council had no statutory duty to undertake snow and ice clearance or to salt/grit highways and footways, it had in the past used limited discretionary powers available to town and parish councils, to contribute towards the costs of providing grit bins in response to public demand - subject to the Highway Authority agreeing to replenish the contents of the bins as the need arose.

He added that during the recent severe weather conditions, the Town Council's staff had dealt with a number of queries from the public, and arrangements had been made for the Town Council's website to include direct links to the relevant pages on the Highway Authority and the Somerset Waste Partnership's websites - to help the public keep aware of developments and to contact both organisations direct regarding any particular problems that they were experiencing.

Given the demands that were being made on the Highway Authority over this period, he had arranged for Town Council staff to replenish a number of grit bins across the Town. In addition, he had initiated a review of the present location of grit bins and the need for any additional bins, the results of which would be submitted to the next meeting of the Buildings and Civic Matters Committee for consideration.

During the ensuing discussion, Members acknowledged that the statutory duty for dealing with highway issues lay with the County Council and that the Town Council had limited discretionary powers to assist. However, it was felt that there was merit in participating in the review proposed by the District Council, which would help identify ways by which the overall public service response could be improved for the future.

It was also felt that communication links between public bodies, transport companies and the public should be reviewed to ensure that the public were provided with timely information about a number of key public service areas using a variety of media – including local radio.

Tim Carroll, Leader of the District Council indicated that, through a collaborative process and taking into account public concern, the District Council wished to identify what needed to be done better in the future and what resources could be made available by key stakeholders to achieve agreed objectives in public service provision.

Attention was also drawn to the need to ensure that footbridges and ramps leading to subways were taken into consideration as part of the proposed joint review.

### **RESOLVED**

- (1) that the matters be noted; and
- (2) that this Council notes the contents of the motion recently adopted by South Somerset District Council on this subject, and respectfully requests that the Town Council be invited to participate in the proposed joint review.

*(Tom Parsley requested that his abstention from voting on the passing of the above Resolution (2) be recorded)*

#### **7/433 PROGRAMME OF MEETINGS 2010/11**

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

### **RESOLVED**

that the draft programme of meetings for 2010/11 (attached as an appendix) be adopted.

#### **7/434 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**

4 January 2010  
18 January 2010

### **Grounds and General Maintenance Committee**

11 January 2010

**Promotions and Activities Committee**

12 January 2010

**Buildings and Civic Matters Committee**

19 January 2010

**Policy, Resources and Finance Committee**

26 January 2010

7/435 **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**

12 November 2009

10 December 2009

7/436 **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There were no questions or comments from members of the public.

Mayor

AT  
4/2/2010

# Yeovil Town Council

## Programme of Meetings of Council and Committees - 2010/11

Meeting	Venue	Day	Time	2010								2011				
				May	Jun	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May
Council	Council Chamber	Tuesday	7.30pm	4* 11**	1	6	3	7	5	2	7	4	1	1	5	17* 24**
Planning and Licensing Committee	Council Chamber	Monday	7.00pm	10, 24	7, 21	5, 19	2, 31****	13 27	11, 25	8, 22	6	5***** 17, 31	14, 28	14, 28	11, 26****	25*****
Grounds and General Maintenance Committee	Council Chamber	Monday	7.00pm	17	-	12	-	6	-	1	-	10	-	7	-	31****
Promotions and Activities Committee	Council Chamber	Tuesday	7.00pm	18	-	13	-	14	-	9	-	11	-	15	-	-
Buildings and Civic Matters Committee	Council Chamber	Tuesday	7.00pm	19***	-	20	-	21	-	16	-	18	-	22	-	-
Policy, Resources and Finance Committee	Council Chamber	Tuesday	7.00pm	25	-	27	-	28	-	23	-	25	-	29	-	-

\* Annual Town Meeting followed by Annual Meeting of the Town Council

\*\* Annual Meeting of the Town Council (reconvened)

\*\*\* moved to Wednesday to avoid clash with Promotions and Activities Committee meeting

\*\*\*\* moved to Tuesday to avoid clash with Bank Holiday

\*\*\*\*\* moved to Wednesday to avoid clash with Bank Holiday and/or Town Council meeting

### Public Holidays

May Bank Holiday

Monday 3 May 2010

New Year's Day Holiday

Monday 3 January 2011

Spring Bank Holiday

Monday 31 May 2010

Good Friday

Friday 22 April 2011

August Bank Holiday

Monday 30 August 2010

Easter Monday

Monday 25 April 2011

Christmas Day Holiday

Monday 27 December 2010

May Bank Holiday

Monday 2 May 2011

Boxing Day Holiday

Tuesday 28 December 2010

Spring Bank Holiday

Monday 30 May 2011

### Elections

Town/Parish

Thursday 5 May 2011

District

Thursday 5 May 2011