

YEOVIL TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of a meeting of the **PROMOTIONS AND ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE** held in the Town House, 19 Union Street, Yeovil on **Tuesday 12 January 2010**

(7.00pm to 8.00pm)

Present:

David Recardo (Chairman)
Philip Chandler
Tony Fife
Ian Martin
Pat Martin
Wes Read
Alan Smith

Also Present:

Steve Fox - Landscape Officer (SSDC)
Alan Tawse – Town Clerk
Sarah Hunt – Assistant Town Clerk

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no comments from members of the public.

7/193 **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the previous meeting held on 10 November 2009, copies of which had been circulated, were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

7/194 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Dave Gooding and Ruth Kendall.

7/195 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

7/196 **CORRESPONDENCE**

There were no items of correspondence.

7/197 **YEOVIL IN BLOOM STEERING GROUP MINUTES**

The Committee considered the Minutes of the meeting of the Yeovil in Bloom Steering Group held on 9 December 2009 (Agenda Item 5 refers).

RESOLVED

that the matters be noted.

7/198 **SEPTEMBER MARKET UPDATE**

Members considered the report (Item 6 refers) and noted that the Assistant Town Clerk was still awaiting confirmation that monthly farmers' markets would be coming to Yeovil in the Spring. Ian Martin supported the idea of purchasing folding chairs for the entertainments area, subject to the Farmers' Market going ahead. Otherwise, he preferred the allocated funds to be spent on an alternative event, similar in format to the previous two years. I

RESOLVED

- (1) that the matters be noted; and
- (2) that 100 folding chairs be purchased, subject to the Farmers' Market taking place in Yeovil, using the savings that would arise from the Town Council not having to hire gazebos and tables for stallholders; and
- (3) that the format of the market be reviewed once the decision had been given by the Farmers Market Co-ordinator.

7/199 **YEOVIL IN BLOOM UPDATE**

The Landscape Officer, Steve Fox, advised members that the bedding designs had now been agreed and that the plants would be delivered in three weeks time. The horticultural team would shortly be in Sidney Gardens, to start a major tidying-up project, which would be carried out in association with a group of local residents and students from Yeovil College. There would be a sensory garden, but this may have to be moved to reduce the likelihood of anti-social behaviour.

Members were impressed that local groups were getting involved and Steve said it was largely due to the District Council's Community Development Officers' work in promoting this kind of initiative in the locality.

RESOLVED

- (1) that the matters be noted; and
- (2) that the Landscape Officer approach the Sidney Gardens residents to invite a representative to sit on the Yeovil in Bloom Steering Group.

7/200 **TOWN CREST PROMOTIONAL ITEMS UPDATE**

Members were pleased that the tea towel was selling well (Agenda item 8 refers). Members hoped that the jute bag and the fridge magnets would be equally well received and acknowledged that the Town Council would soon hold an extended range of suitable gifts for twinning and other civic purposes.

RESOLVED

that the matters be noted.

7/201 **PROMOTIONS AND ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE**

Members considered the Town Clerk's report (Agenda item 9 refers) and discussed whether they felt that Promotions and Activities Committee ought to be disbanded. The following points emerged from the ensuing discussion:

Points in Favour :

- Poor attendance over a number of months
- Much of the work of Yeovil in Bloom undertaken by the Steering Group, which would continue to exist
- Not much of substance on the agenda in recent months
- Additional work to Councillors' already busy diaries
- Committee has run its course
- An additional, unnecessary, administrative expense
- Budget seemed to be pre-determined – not much scope for new initiatives
- Cost savings

Points Against:

- Committee has successfully promoted Town Council
- If disbanded, projects might be overshadowed by other Council business
- Council would lose 'legacy' of successful projects
- In disbanding the Committee, there would only be a relatively small financial saving
- It would reduce representation on the Policy, Resources and Finance Committee
- May overburden workloads of other Committees

Tony Fife suggested that instead of arbitrarily disbanding one Committee, it would be fairer and more effective to carry out a 'root and branch' review of all the Council's service committees, apart from Policy, Resources and Finance. He suggested a working party to be established, comprising the Mayor and the four Chairmen of the affected committees.

RESOLVED

- (1) that the matters be noted; and
- (2) that rather than disbanding the Committee, 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
- (3) that a working group comprising the Chairmen of the four service committees along with the Mayor, be requested to undertake the review and report its findings back to the Council.

7/202 **FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR PERIOD ENDING 30 NOVEMBER 2009**

RESOLVED

that the Financial Statement for October and November 2009 be noted.

7/203 **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.

7/204 **CHRISTMAS LIGHTS**

The Committee considered the confidential report of the Town Clerk (Agenda item 11 refers).

RESOLVED

- (1) that the matter be noted; and
- (2) that approval be given to the proposals as set out in the above report.

Chairman

SH
18/01/10