

YEOVIL TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of a meeting of the **BUILDINGS AND CIVIC MATTERS COMMITTEE** held in the Council Chamber, Town House, 19 Union Street, Yeovil, on **Tuesday 19 January 2010**

(7.00 pm – 7.50 pm)

Present:

Bridget Dollard (Chairman)
Phil Chandler
Tony Fife
David Gooding
Pete Goodman
John Hann
Steve Hawker
Tony Lock

Also Present:

John Grana – (Yeovil South Ward)
Natalie Ross – Community Development Officer (SSDC)
Alan Tawse – Town Clerk
Sarah Hunt – Assistant Town Clerk

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no comments from members of the public.

7/210 MINUTES

The Minutes of the previous meeting held on 17 November 2009, copies of which had been circulated, were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

7/211 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Clive Davis and Wes Read.

7/212 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

7/213 CORRESPONDENCE

The Assistant Town Clerk reported that a letter had been received from the District Council's Street Naming Assistant to advise that the access road to the new Barratt development from Lyde Road would be called Great Mead.

7/214 REQUEST FOR LIGHTING AT BIRCHFIELD PARK

Members considered the Community Development Officer's report (Agenda Item 5 refers).

Tony Lock opened the discussion in support of the lighting improvements at Birchfield Park and the benefits they would bring to the local community. He confirmed that the funding from the County Councillor budget had increased from £2,000 to £3,000 and the Area South Community Safety Action Panel contribution had also increased from £2,000 to £3,000.

The Town Clerk indicated that £3,720 remained unallocated in the Committee's Community Safety budget and could be used to help fund the project.

Tony Lock proposed that the remainder of the budget be allocated towards the costs of replacement lights (estimated at £13,000) and that the Policy, Resources and Finance Committee be requested to allocate a further £4,280 (making a total contribution of £8,000) from Contingencies towards this element of the project.

During the ensuing discussion, reference was made to the levels of crime and anti-social behaviour in the area and the need to take positive action to address the issues.

Whilst it was felt by some Members that, at this stage of the financial year, it would not be appropriate to allocate the entire remaining balance of the budget, others supported the use of the unallocated funds for this purpose and the need to seek additional funds from Contingencies.

Natalie Ross confirmed that she was also seeking a contribution from Yeovil Without Parish Council; she was meeting with them later that evening to discuss the matter. She also confirmed that the proposed works would not be carried out in the current financial year and that all ongoing revenue costs involved would be met by South Somerset District Council.

RESOLVED

- (1) that the report be noted;
- (2) that the remaining balance of the Town Council's Community Safety budget (£3,720) be allocated towards the estimated cost of lighting improvements; and
- (3) that the Policy, Resources and Finance Committee be requested to allocate an additional £4,280 from Contingencies to enable an overall contribution of £8,000 to be made towards the lighting improvements in the current financial year.

7/215 BUS SHELTER UPDATE

Members considered the Assistant Town Clerk's report (Agenda Item 6 refers) and noted that progress was being made towards the purchase and installation of three bus shelters for the town.

RESOLVED

that the report be noted.

7/216 **LOADING/UNLOADING PROHIBITION IN SOUTH STREET**

Members considered the Assistant Town Clerk's report (Agenda item 7 refers).

RESOLVED

that the report be noted.

7/217 **PROMOTIONS AND ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE**

Members considered the Town Clerk's report (Agenda item 8 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:

- Will help to bolster workload of other service committees
- Will help to free up Councillors' already busy diaries
- Need to change arrangements to reflect changed circumstances
- Cost savings

Points Against:

- Committee has helped to ease the burden on other committees by spreading the Council's workload – its disbanding may overburden the workloads of other committees
- In disbanding the Committee, there would only be a relatively small financial saving
- There may be a negative impact on the delivery of its functions as a number of the Committee's areas of responsibility complement each other and are better managed by a single committee

RESOLVED

- (1) that the matters be noted;
- (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, 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 Council.

7/218 **FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR PERIOD OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2009**

The Committee considered the report of the Finance Administrator (Agenda item 9 refers).

RESOLVED

that the financial statement for the above months be noted.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no comments from members of the public.

Chairman

SH
26/01/10