



# Yeovil Town Council

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**Yeovil Town Council**

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

The Time... **7.30pm**

The Date... **Tuesday 1 July 2008**

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

*The Town Council will be discussing all the items listed overleaf*

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



*Alan Tawse*

Alan Tawse

Town Clerk

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

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## **YEOVIL TOWN COUNCIL**

Wes Read – Mayor of Yeovil

Philip Chandler - Deputy Mayor

J Vincent Chainey

John Cruddas

Clive Davis

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

Tony Lock

Ian Martin

Pat Martin

Tom Parsley

David Recardo

Alan Smith

## **A G E N D A**

### **Prayers**

### **Public Comment (15 Minutes)**

#### **1. MINUTES**

To confirm as a correct record the Minutes of the previous meeting held on 3 June 2008.

#### **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. POLICE ARCHITECTURAL LIAISON OFFICER**

At the suggestion of the Planning and Licensing Committee, Steve Nickerson from Avon and Somerset Constabulary will give a presentation on his duties and responsibilities as the Police Architectural Liaison Officer and will outline his role in commenting on planning applications.

#### **7. HM REVENUE AND CUSTOMS CHANGE PROGRAMME**

The Town Council has been invited to comment on a proposal by HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) to close its offices in Maltravers House, Petters Way, Yeovil. Details of the proposal are set out in the attached letter (pages 5 to 7).

The proposed closure follows a review by HMRC of its operations throughout the UK.

Responses are invited by 25 July. In particular, HMRC would welcome information on the following topics:

- Local or regional economic factors which may be relevant to decisions on particular offices.
- Specific regeneration plans you consider these proposals would affect.

- Withdrawal or influx of any other government departments or large or significant employers in/out of your area in the last two years. If so, how many jobs were gained/lost as a result?
- Plans for new or improved transport links which would have an impact on these proposals?

Council is **RECOMMENDED** to consider its response to the consultation process.

8. **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**

2 June 2008  
16 June 2008

9. **REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES**

<b>Yeovil Twinning Association</b>	PAGE
15 May 2008	8 - 9
12 June 2008	10-11
<b>Yeovil Youth Council</b>	
9 June 2008	12-15

**Public Comment (15 Minutes)**

**EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

The Committee will be requested to pass a resolution excluding the press and public 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.

10. **FORMER SKI AND ACTIVITY CENTRE**

(Confidential report to be circulated to Members and Officers only).

**List of Engagements attended/to be attended by His Worship The Mayor of Yeovil, Councillor Wes Read and the Deputy Mayor of Yeovil, Councillor Philip Chandler from 3 June to 5 August 2008**

08/06/08	The Mayor of Yeovil, Councillor Wes Read, attended Poole Borough Council's Civic Church Service and Parade.
09/06/08	The Mayor of Yeovil, Councillor Wes Read, along with the Macebearer, attended Milford Infants' School Year Two class
10/06/08	The Mayor of Yeovil, Councillor Wes Read, attended the Yeovil Sea Cadets Annual Inspection
11/06/08	The Mayor of Yeovil, Councillor Wes Read, along with Members and Staff of Yeovil Town Council participated in the Guide Dogs for the Blind Shades Day
11/06/08	The Mayor of Yeovil, Councillor Wes Read, attended Holy Trinity Primary School's Walking Bus initiative
13/06/08	The Mayor of Yeovil, Councillor Wes Read, attended the official opening of Pittard plc's newly refurbished areas
14/06/08	The Mayor of Yeovil, Councillor Wes Read, attended the Somerset Schools' Folk Dance in Wells
14/06/08	The Mayor of Yeovil, Councillor Wes Read, attended the Motor Neurone Disease Association's Wessex Strings in Concert
15/06/08	The Mayor of Yeovil, Councillor Wes Read, attended the Mayor of Wareham's Civic Service
18/06/08	The Mayor of Yeovil, Councillor Wes Read, attended Teen Challenge UK performance of "The Journey" at Elim Pentecostal Church
19/06/08	The Mayor of Yeovil, Councillor Wes Read, attended the SSDC's 'Fame Awards' Evening - Young People saluting their Volunteer Workers
20/06/08	The Mayor of Yeovil, Councillor Wes Read, along with the Macebearer, attended Milford Infants' School Year one class
20/06/08	Deputy Mayor of Yeovil, Councillor Philip Chandler, attended Yeovil College's Art, Design and Media End of Year Show
21/06/08	The Mayor of Yeovil, Councillor Wes Read, attended the Fiveways School Summer Fete
21/06/08	Deputy Mayor of Yeovil, Councillor Philip Chandler, attended as guests of AgustaWestland a pageant, celebrating 100 years of the Territorial Army, in London
22/06/08	The Mayor of Yeovil, Councillor Wes Read, attended a Fun Dog Show raising funds for the RSPCA
22/06/08	The Mayor of Yeovil, Councillor Wes Read, attended the Mayor of Shaftesbury's Civic Day
22/06/08	Deputy Mayor of Yeovil, Councillor Philip Chandler, attended Weston-super-Mare Civic Service
24/06/08	The Mayor of Yeovil, Councillor Wes Read, will launch the new official Town Guide
25/06/08	The Mayor of Yeovil, Councillor Wes Read, attended South Somerset Link Education Celebration Day
25/06/08	The Mayor of Yeovil, Councillor Wes Read, attended Yeovil and District Scout Council's AGM
26/06/08	The Mayor of Yeovil, Councillor Wes Read, attended the Preston School's Presentation evening.
27/06/08	The Mayor of Yeovil, Councillor Wes Read, attended the Centre of Vocational Excellence's Awards Ceremony

27/06/08	Deputy Mayor of Yeovil, Councillor Philip Chandler, attended the Yeovil Federation Student Leadership Conference
29/06/08	The Mayor of Yeovil, Councillor Wes Read, attended the Italian Market
29/06/08	Deputy Mayor of Yeovil, Councillor Philip Chandler, attended Ferndown Town Council's Civic Service and Mayoral Blessing
01/07/08	The Mayor of Yeovil, Councillor Wes Read will attend the Yeovil Bowls Club Centenary Match
02/07/08	The Mayor of Yeovil, Councillor Wes Read, will attend Blandford Forum Civic Day
02/07/08	Deputy Mayor of Yeovil, Councillor Philip Chandler, will attend Action Against Business Crime Safer Business Award
03/07/08	The Mayor of Yeovil, Councillor Wes Read, will attend Milford Junior School's performance of 'Trolls'
04/07/08	The Mayor of Yeovil, Councillor Wes Read, will attend the Girls' Brigade display and presentation awards
06/07/08	The Mayor of Yeovil, Councillor Wes Read, will attend Portland Town Council's Ceremony of the Keys
06/07/08	Deputy Mayor of Yeovil, Councillor Philip Chandler, will attend Frome Town Council's Civic Service
06/07/08	The Mayor of Yeovil, Councillor Wes Read, will host the annual Civic Service
11/07/08	The Mayor of Yeovil, Councillor Wes Read, will attend Girlguiding Somerset's Annual Meeting
12/07/08	The Mayor of Yeovil, Councillor Wes Read, will attend the official launch of Shine and Chard Health Day
12/07/08	The Mayor of Yeovil, Councillor Wes Read, will attend Preston Park House Annual Fete
14/07/08	The Mayor of Yeovil, Councillor Wes Read, will host a visit from the Yeovil in Bloom Judge
21/07/08	The Mayor of Yeovil, Councillor Wes Read, will attend Fiveways School presentation evening

FAO The Chief Executive

**Tel** 020 7147 2753**Fax****Email****Date** 13 June 2008[www.hmrc.gov.uk](http://www.hmrc.gov.uk)**Our Ref****Your Ref**

## **HM Revenue & Customs Change Programme: understanding our impact on local communities**

Dear Sir/Madam,

### **Review of South West**

HMRC is modernising its operations throughout the UK to focus more on what our customers need and to save taxpayers' money. We are currently reviewing how we organise our activities in Yeovil and are approaching you as a representative of the local/regional authority to give you the opportunity to provide an input to the review.

By 2011 HMRC estimates it will require around 25% fewer staff and a third less accommodation to deliver its business. That means a radical re-think of how we deploy people in offices around the country, both to reflect our new, more efficient ways of working and to take out duplicate capacity as we continue bringing together the former Inland Revenue and HM Customs & Excise departments.

### **What we are doing**

We are currently conducting a programme of reviews aimed at reducing and reconfiguring our existing accommodation - currently housing around 91,000 people in a network of 500 buildings - in line with our future needs.

We are consulting our staff and their representatives on how best to do this and as a government department, we are also mindful of the potential impact of our decisions on large and small communities across the country. We acknowledge that our decision to withdraw from a particular location can have a sizable impact on the local community.

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Information is available in large print, audio tape and Braille formats.  
Type Talk service prefix number - 18001



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



However, these changes are in the most part for 'back office' staff and processes only. **Our face to face services, through HMRC Enquiry centres, will be retained where they currently exist or close by** and where we work directly with customers our future business model will continue to provide face to face contact

Reviews are being carried out region by region on a rolling basis. We have now completed the large urban centres which house 78% of our staff, and are now reviewing remaining towns and cities where HMRC currently has a presence. The review process will continue during 2008 and implementation until at least 2011.

Further information about the process for the reviews, including an A-Z list of locations, can be found on our website at <http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/local/transforming-hmrc.htm>.

### **What we're proposing to do in your area**

See annex below for specific details on what is proposed in your area.

### **What we need your help with**

HMRC wants to consider the views of key stakeholders outside our organisation on the change proposals. Nationally we are engaging with a number of representative bodies, from both the commercial and voluntary sectors. I would stress that so far we have only made initial proposals, not decisions, about which buildings are to close. Your input will be considered as part of our review. If decisions are made later to keep open some buildings that were flagged as possibly closing, the knock on effect could be that some buildings that we currently anticipate remaining open will close. It should also be remembered that although we are proposing to withdraw from some buildings, they will become available to other employers to lease thus mitigating any potential loss to the local economy.

We are seeking information on our proposals in so far as they impact on your area as a whole and ask you to provide information on all the locations currently under review regardless of whether offices there are currently indicated as remaining open or to be closed. In particular, we would be grateful for information on the following topics, which may not necessarily be readily understood or in the public domain.

- Local or regional economic factors which may be relevant to decisions on particular offices.
- Specific regeneration plans you consider our proposals would affect.
- Withdrawal or influx of any other government departments or large or significant employers in/out of your area in the last two years. If so, how many jobs were gained/lost as a result?
- Plans for new or improved transport links which would have an impact on our proposals?

Any comments you wish to make will be considered by the HMRC team responsible for the review, both in the run-up to decision making and during the implementation period that follows. A summary of responses we receive will be published on the HMRC website at a later date. We would appreciate a response within six weeks of the date of this letter and would be happy for you to share this correspondence with your appropriate elected officials and local development agencies.

Responses should be sent to:

Paul Smyth,  
Workforce Change Programme: Community Feedback  
HM Revenue and Customs  
Room 95  
Somerset House, Strand,  
LONDON WC2R 1LB

Yours sincerely

*Mary Hay*

Mary Hay  
Director, Workforce Change Programme

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Annex

### **Yeovil**

HMRC's estate in the above location currently accommodates around 75 staff, who are all based in Maltravers House. The number of HMRC people needed in this area is projected to reduce to less than 20 by 2011.

The proposal is to **vacate** the following building:

- Maltravers House, Petters Way, Yeovil BA20 1SQ

# **Yeovil Twinning Association**

## **Minutes of the Committee Meeting** **held at Yeovil College on Thursday 15 May 2008**

**Present:** Graham Voizey (Chairman), Bridget Dollard (Vice-Chairman), Vera Gower (Treasurer), Jan Aldridge, John Attwood, Roger Baker, Martin Ford, Roger Gower (Acting Secretary), Wes Read (Mayor of Yeovil)

**Apologies:** Diana Gray, Andrew Kendal (Council Rep.), Theresa Mahoney, Tom Parsley (Council Rep.), Barbara Stimpson, Sally and Richard Wallis

**Minutes:** The Chairman welcomed our new mayor to the meeting. Graham explained that he wished to concentrate on financial issues concerning the Association. The minutes of the meeting on 10 April were agreed and accepted.

**Matters Arising:** Bridget suggested that, following the recent visit by the group from Samarate, letters be sent to Bruce Trigger (Town Crier) for his excellent 'Blue Plaque' tour of Yeovil and to David Mills (Manager of the Yeovil Retail Centre) for his gifts. **Barbara** is asked to do these. An email had been sent to Agusta Westland for their gifts of clock/radios and key rings. A letter of thanks from the Chairman has been sent to the West Somerset Railway.

**Correspondence:** None.

**Treasurer's report:** Vera Gower distributed her report and explained that while the closing balance looked fine the figure included money received for the forthcoming outward trips to Herblay and Taunusstein. The funds available to the Association amounted to £2664. One new member had joined. There was no comment on the report. Further discussion of the financial status of the Association was deferred to later in the meeting.

### **Visits:**

**from Samarate:** This had proved to be a very good trip. The programme seemed to please the Italian visitors. The total cost was £1274 and all bills have been paid. A donation of £400 has yet to be received. The gifts provided by Agusta Westland were distributed to the Italian visitors.

**to Herblay:** A total of 21 members visited Herblay over the period 8 to 13 May. This was a very enjoyable visit and our French hosts had provided many interesting trips. **A letter of thanks will be sent to the President of the Herblay Association.** The lower number of Yeovil members making the trip will lead to the need for a supplementary charge but this will not be known until the final invoice is received from South West Coaches. **Vera** will send a letter to all involved when the costs are known.

**to Taunusstein:** All arrangements have been made and all deposits paid. Final balances from members attending the trip are due for payment by 23 July.

**Yeovil College:** Item put forward until the next meeting.

**Subsidising Hosts:** This item formed the core business of the meeting.

Vera Gower stated that from the figures she has of the funding of the Association over the last years indicated that we will have little or no funding within the next 3 to 4 years with which to provide an adequate level of contact with our twinned towns... At present, fund-raising events are largely organised and attended by the same small group of members.

Graham suggested that the subscription fee should be increased. This would raise the Association's funds in general and would allow some form of subsidy to be offered to the members who host incoming visitors. This suggestion was based on likely impact of rising prices in deterring members from hosting. There was some concern on the issue with worries about causing members to leave. Graham Voizey suggested that an increase in membership fees should be offered at the AGM. A formal vote was held with Vera Gower

proposing a motion to raise subscriptions to £15 pa and Jan Aldridge seconding it. The vote was passed unanimously. There was a frank and open discussion on other sources of funding since it was recognized that the deteriorating financial condition of the Association needs to be addressed with some urgency. Comparison with the finances of Yeovil's twinned towns gave little indication of a way forward since their funding arrangements are different. Efforts by the YTA Committee in contacting other groups and local businesses had resulted in virtually no responses. Similarly, EU grants received in the late 1990s were apparently not now available. Bridget suggested that Vera contact the Twinning Office at County Hall to discuss any avenues of funding.

There was a discussion of the related issue of increasing membership. In response to a question from Wes Read, it was stated that over the last few years, membership had remained fairly steady at around 60. There was also a general agreement in the committee that the perception in Yeovil of the Twinning Association is that it is a holiday club and not a representative group of the town open to everyone. Bridget gave a short outline history of the Association. Graham emphasized the need for better public relations to ensure that the townsfolk are well aware what the YTA is, what it does and that they can join. It was remarked that we have not yet acted on a decision of a while ago to approach Ivel FM for a short radio slot to get our message across. Wes Read said that this is not difficult because Ivel FM has regular broadcasts from the workplace and it should only need contact with Steve Carpenter to get a slot. It was also agreed that contact should be made with the local newspapers. Bridget was willing to liaise with the Yeovil Express and it was thought that Barbara might do the same with the Western Gazette. Wes Read also suggested that there is an intranet site within Augusta Westland on which staff are encouraged to give information about clubs and societies. He offered to put a short statement about the YTA on this system. Roger Gower agreed to provide suitable copy for use. The information provided could also be placed in the library and Tourist Information Centre etc.

Wes Read also suggested that the Association might like to consider the times in the year when trips are made so as to coincide more with school holidays. This might encourage younger families to join in.

**Socials/fund raising:** Vera and Roger will be hosting a Sunday brunch on 6 July, 9.30-12, with newspapers. Graham said he would be holding a Sunday cream tea in his garden but a date had yet to be set.

**Any Other Business:** None

**Date of Next Meeting:** 12 June 2008

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## AGENDA

### Committee Meeting on Thursday 12 June 2008

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of previous meeting
3. Matters arising
4. Correspondence
5. Treasurer's report
6. Visits 2008 : Outward – Herblay  
Outward – Taunusstein  
Inward – Samarate
7. Yeovil College – raise next month
8. Subsidising hosts
9. Social/Fundraising Events
10. AOB

# Yeovil Twinning Association

## Minutes of the Committee Meeting held at Yeovil College on Thursday 12 June 2008

**Present:** Jan Aldridge, Roger Baker, Bridget Dollard (Vice-Chair), Vera Gower (Treas), Diana Gray, Theresa Mahoney, Barbara Stimpson (Sec), Graham Voizey (Chair),

**Apologies:** John Attwood, Martin Ford, Roger Gower, Andrew Kendall, Tom Parsley, Sally and Richard Wallis

**Minutes:** The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and the minutes were accepted and signed.

### Matters Arising:

- Graham pointed out that we have insufficient funds to continue running the Association for more than two years, despite attempts to fundraise and suggestions to increase membership fees. Bridget proposed that we write to Alan Tawse (Town Clerk) requesting a meeting as soon as possible consisting of himself, some town councillors and three YTA officers, to discuss the future of Yeovil Twinning Association. Roger seconded this. (Action: Barbara)
- The £400 donation from AgustaWestland was on its way.
- Wes Read had kindly posted Yeovil Twinning's flyer on the intranet at AgustaWestland.

### Correspondence:

- A letter had been received from Sigrid in Taunusstein enclosing a menu for our forthcoming Rhine in Flames trip, requesting choices.
- Barbara produced literature concerning the Samarate region from Gigi, which was handed out.
- Yeovil Town Council had written confirming that Councillors Andrew Kendall and Tom Parsley continued as our representatives and requesting our confirmation that the Council's representation is considered to be serving a useful purpose, and also asking for a list of forthcoming meetings.
- Theresa had received correspondence regarding the Italian Market at the end of June asking if we wished to be involved. On the Sunday (29<sup>th</sup>) the Pizza Trail (Tamburinos) will take place in the Quedam. A completed application, copy of public liability insurance and risk assessment (for use of equipment such as a gazebo) would be required for a stall in the Quedam. Alternatively we could have a stall near the entertainments area in the Middle Street Triangle. We would need to concentrate on our Samarate link for this occasion but we could display photographs and information. Two girls from Samarate will be coming for this event (staying with the Wests) and bringing with them some sponsorship money collected for the hospital. Volunteers will be required to man the stall over the two days and Vera will ask members for their help. Theresa liaising with Ian Budd.
- A letter had been received from an elderly gentleman who would like to join the Association for its social events. It was agreed to accept his joining fee now but to waive it next year.

**Treasurer's report:** Vera distributed her report.

Because the Herblay trip was under-subscribed, participants will be receiving requests for another (forewarned) £36 per person. Action: Vera. SW Coaches had been unable to reduce their price for this visit because the ferry company charge is per coach, not per traveller. Vera had tried costing this trip by air to see if it would have been cheaper, but this was not the case.

- Concern was expressed about the possible cost of our trip to Italy next year.
- Theresa spoke about the frequency of trips: are members put off participating because of over-frequency;
- Could we advertise for additional travellers to make up numbers when necessary;
- Non-twinners often believe you have to be on the Council to be part of the Twinning Association;
- High cost is prohibitive for families;

- Would using a smaller vehicle (minibus) make trips more viable (no – because you would still need a driver and new regulations are prohibitive).
- Graham suggested that we request a trip to Samarate in September 2009 and extend it for those interested to a few extra days' holiday in a lakeside hotel to make the air fare more viable.

**Visit to Taunusstein:** Final balances from members attending the trip are due for payment by 23 July. Vera will be sending reminders. 35 will now be going and there is a spare seat available.

**Yeovil College:** There was a discussion about the languages taught in local schools and previous representation of the college on YTA committee. Bridget suggested producing a quiz about YTA which could be circulated at schools to raise interest (with a small prize) and asked members to think up some questions. Raise again during autumn term.

**Subsidising Hosts:** Ongoing

**Socials/fund raising:**

- Vera will be sending out another Diary Dates, requesting numbers for the Sunday Brunch on 6<sup>th</sup> July.
- Graham postponed the cream tea until September as no-one had responded
- Proposals for other fund-raisers were discussed, eg quiz/games nights
- A programme for next year needs to be produced
- Members should be encouraged to bring friends and relatives along to support events

**Any Other Business:**

- Roger Gower had met with Andrew Kendall regarding the website and proposes to attend a course in October which will enable him to update this.
- The French had broached the subject of a judo exchange.
- Bridget suggested sending copies of the new Town Guide to Samarate, Herblay and Taunusstein for their information Action: Barbara

**Date of Next Meeting:** It was decided to cancel July's meeting because of holiday absences, therefore the next meeting will be Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> September.

## AGENDA

### Committee Meeting on Thursday 11 September 2008

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of previous meeting
3. Matters arising
4. Correspondence
5. Treasurer's report
6. Visits: Taunusstein
7. Yeovil College
8. Social/Fundraising Events
9. AOB

## YEOVIL TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes** of a meeting of **Yeovil Youth Council** held in the Town House, 19 Union Street, Yeovil on **Monday 9 June 2008**

(7.00pm – 9.00pm)

**Present:**

Sam Ashdown  
Stephanie Blakemore  
Roberta Burns  
Alex Fells  
Georgina Louise – Grimes  
Tom Harding  
Emily Mangles  
Sienna Rogers  
Ryan Yeo

**Also Present:**

Alan Tawse -Town Clerk  
Zara Case – Area Youth Worker (SCC)  
Rob Parr – Senior Play and Youth Facilities Officer (SSDC)

### **(1) Election of Chairman**

In the absence of the Chairman, it was agreed that Tom Harding be elected Chairman for the meeting.

*(Tom in the Chair)*

### **(2) Chairman's Welcome**

The Chairman welcomed Stephanie, Georgina and Ryan to their first meeting of the Youth Council.

### **(3) Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Jack Webb.

### **(4) Minutes**

The Minutes of the previous meeting held on 28 April 2008, copy of which were attached to the Agenda, were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

### **(5) Yeovil Vision Flagship Play space – Yeovil Recreation Centre**

Rob Parr - Senior Play and Youth Facilities Officer (SSDC) attended the meeting and gave a presentation on the new flagship playspace, which was to be

provided at Yeovil Recreation Centre as part of the delivery of the Yeovil Vision.

Rob began by outlining the background to the project, and gave details of the funding which had been made available via the Big Lottery, the Children's Play Programme and the Yeovil Vision.

Rob drew attention to the role which would be played by the appointed landscape architect company Parklife Ltd, who would design the play space and assist with the consultation process. Details of the consultation process were outlined at the meeting, and it was indicated that representatives of Parklife Ltd would be visiting a cross-section of schools across South Somerset.

Examples of community engagement carried out by Parklife Ltd in other parts of the UK were given at the meeting, along with the types of play facilities that had emerged from those initiatives.

In response to a query, Rob confirmed that the new play area was not aimed at any particular age range and that he would welcome comments on what facilities should be provided to meet the needs of all young people – including teenagers.

During the ensuing discussion, the following points were made:

- Need to create specific area for teenagers
- Provision of a managed whitewash wall to help reduce the potential for offensive graffiti on the site
- “Random” rather than “uniform” design would make the facility much more attractive and appealing
- Some form of perimeter fencing would discourage animals from fouling the area
- The incorporation of some form of high ropes activity would improve the attraction of the site for teenagers
- The inclusion of water play features would enhance the appeal of the facility
- The use of sand could prove to be an attraction provided it was carefully managed in wet weather
- A mini-obstacle course could also enhance the appeal of the playspace
- Appropriate planting schemes in close proximity to the play area would enhance its appearance and provide an opportunity for young people to get involved in planting activities

Reference was also made to the importance of securing the site to help minimise vandalism, and to the possibility of young people getting involved in assisting with the supervision of the site at appropriate times.

The Chairman thanked Rob for his interesting and informative presentation, and it was

## **RESOLVED**

(1) that the matter be noted;

- (2) that the above outlined suggestions and comments be taken into consideration as part of the ongoing consultation exercise into the new Flagship Playspace;
- (3) that Rob arrange for Alan to be provided with details of the initial proposals and designs following the closure of the consultation process on 27 June 2008; and
- (4) that Alan arrange for these documents to be circulated to all Members of the Youth Council in order that they may be given an opportunity to provide further feedback on the proposals.

## **(6) Elections**

Alan referred to the first set of elections that had taken place at Preston School during the week commencing 28 April, and gave an update on the outcome of the process.

Turning to other education establishments, he indicated that the elections at Westfield had been delayed due to the unforeseen illness of a member of the School's staff dealing with the matter, who had only recently returned to work, and that he was still awaiting a response from Park School.

Alan added that the present Members of the Youth Council would continue to hold office until the elections had taken place at their respective education establishments, at which point those who were not seeking re-election, or who stood and were unsuccessful would be replaced by those newly elected representatives.

Given the delays that had been experienced in concluding the outstanding elections and taking into account the imminent exam period, it was suggested that consideration be given to arranging for the outstanding elections to take place at the beginning of the Autumn term – which would also enable those students joining year 8 to be eligible for nomination.

### **RESOLVED**

- (1) that the matter be noted; and
- (2) that arrangements be made for the outstanding elections to take place at the beginning of the Autumn 2008 term.

## **(7) Team Building Exercise**

Zara referred to the planned team-building exercise which was due to take place towards the end of August 2008.

Given the unavoidable delays in concluding the outstanding elections, she requested that the Youth Council give consideration to the possibility of delaying the team-building exercise until these elections had been concluded and all the newly elected Members were available to participate in the exercise.

**RESOLVED**

- (1) that the matter be noted; and
- (2) that provisional arrangements be made for a team-building exercise to be held from Friday 17 to Sunday 19 October 2008 and, should those dates be unavailable, for the exercise to take place on Friday 24 to Sunday 26 October 2008 instead.

**(8) Any Other Business**

(a) Town Guide

Alan distributed copies of the newly published Town Guide, which featured a section on the Youth Council and Its activities.

**RESOLVED**

that the matter be noted.

(b) Fundraising Meetings

Zara referred to fundraising sessions which she had organised at Morley House to give Youth Councillors an opportunity to develop initiatives in this area. She indicated that the first session would take place between 7pm and 9pm on Monday 23 June, with the following session taking place in August – on a date to be notified.

**RESOLVED**

that the matter be noted.

**(9) Date of Next Meeting**

**RESOLVED**

that the next meeting of the Youth Council take place at 7.00pm on Monday 21 July 2008.

Chairman