

## YEOVIL TOWN COUNCIL

**MINUTES** of a meeting of the **POLICY, RESOURCES AND FINANCE COMMITTEE** held in the Council Chamber, Town House, 19 Union Street, Yeovil on **Tuesday 27 July 2010**

(7.00pm – 8.40pm)

**Present:**

David Recardo - Chairman  
Philip Chandler  
Bridget Dollard  
Steve Hawker

Ian Martin  
Pat Martin  
Wes Read

**Also Present:**

Tom Parsley            Yeovil South Ward  
Alan Tawse            Town Clerk

### PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no comments from the public.

7/260 **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the previous meeting held on 29 June 2010, copies of which had been circulated, were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

7/261 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from J Vincent Chainey, Clive Davis, Tony Fife, Tony Lock and Alan Smith.

7/262 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Bridget Dollard declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Agenda item 5 (Applications for Grant Aid – Yeovil and District Chrysanthemum and Dahlia Society) by virtue of her association with the Hall used by the Society as a venue for its shows.

7/263 **CORRESPONDENCE**

There were no items of correspondence.

7/264 **APPLICATIONS FOR GRANT AID**

(a) Yeovil and District Chrysanthemum and Dahlia Society

*(Bridget Dollard having declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the following application left the room during its consideration and took no part in the discussion or voting thereon)*

**RESOLVED** that a grant of £350 be awarded towards the general expenses of running the Society and its shows. (S.137 of the Local Government Act 1972 – as amended).

- (b) Yeovil Concert Band

**RESOLVED** that a grant of £500 be awarded to purchase music to expand the Band's repertoire. (S.145 of the Local Government Act 1972 – as amended).

- (c) Yeovil Olympiads Athletic Club

**RESOLVED** that a grant of £900 be awarded to meet the costs of the provision of prizes and administration for the 2010 Yeovil Games. (S.137 of the Local Government Act 1972 – as amended).

- (d) South Somerset Mind

The Town Clerk drew attention to a number of declarations in the application and to a previous undertaking given on behalf of the Organisation regarding their internal financial management arrangements.

He also referred to a statement made at a recent meeting of the District Council's Area South Committee about the current operation of the Organisation, and to the fact that the audited accounts for the year ended 31 March 2010 had not been received.

**RESOLVED** that consideration of the application be deferred until the next meeting and, in the meantime, the Town Clerk seek further information about the application and the Organisation.

- (e) The Hub Yeovil

**RESOLVED** that no action be taken regarding this application.

## 7/265 **CAPITAL FUND**

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

The Town Clerk reported at the meeting that the Planning Authority had now issued a certificate granting outline planning consent for the residential development of the former Goldcroft Allotment Site.

### **RESOLVED**

- (1) that the position concerning the Capital Fund be noted; and
- (2) that the current position regarding the rolling programme of play area improvements be noted.

## 7/266 **ALLOTMENT LETTINGS**

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

During the ensuing discussion, reference was made to the current supply of and demand for allotment plots in the Yeovil Town area, both of which were well within national guidelines. Bearing this in mind, it was felt that there was no need to seek additional land for allotments in this particular area.

However, it was felt that the allotment lettings policy needed to be amended to create a more equitable allocation of plots and to ensure that greater priority was given to residents of Yeovil Town whom it was recognised already contributed towards the costs of their maintenance and development through the Town Council's precept.

Attention was drawn to the powers available to all town and parish councils to provide allotments in their respective areas, which helped to meet the demand for such facilities from local people.

### **RESOLVED:**

- (1) that approval be given to the following changes to the current lettings policy:
  - that existing tenants not be allocated any additional plots;
  - that new tenants be restricted to one plot only; and
  - that, notwithstanding the above provisions, tenants who have been allocated a previously divided plot be permitted to take on another divided plot when the opportunity arises;
- (2) that a policy restricting the waiting list to persons who reside within the administrative area of Yeovil Town be adopted forthwith;
- (3) that the tenancy agreement for new ploholders be amended to include a condition requiring all such tenants to reside within the administrative area of Yeovil Town for the duration of their tenancy;
- (4) that no action be taken to allocate resources to the Grounds and General Maintenance Committee to review allotment provision within Yeovil Town; and
- (5) that the extent of the practice of existing tenants renting more than one plot and the implications of limiting all tenancy agreements to a single plot be noted.

## 7/267 **STREET TRADING**

The Committee considered the report of the Town Clerk (Agenda item 8 refers).

The Town Clerk indicated that, since the publication of the Agenda, he had received an assurance from the District Council's Licensing Manager that the

previously adopted criteria in respect of Town Centre street trading consents would continue to be included in the list of Town Centre conditions.

**RESOLVED**

- (1) that the report be noted; and
- (2) that, in light of the above-outlined assurance by the District Council's Licensing Manager, the draft street trading policy be supported.

7/268 **FINANCE WORKING GROUP**

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

The Chairman outlined the approach which he proposed be followed in respect of this year's budget-setting review process and the benefits that would be achieved.

During the ensuing discussion, reference was made to the possibility of achieving savings through a reduction in the frequency of committee meetings.

**RESOLVED**

- (1) that the matter be noted;
- (2) that the Finance Working Group be re-appointed for the forthcoming budget exercise with the following remit:

*To help develop the Council's capital and revenue funding and expenditure plans taking a zero-based budgeting approach, To look at the expenditure and income over the past five years to see what trends can be found, as well as trends with the past budgets over the same period, and to make recommendations on such matters to the Policy, Resources and Finance Committee; and*

- (3) that the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Pat Martin and John Grana be appointed to serve on the Working Group.

7/269 **NALC LARGER COUNCILS' ASSEMBLY 2010**

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

**RESOLVED**

- (1) that the report be noted; and
- (2) that no action be taken regarding the representation of the Town Council at the above Assembly.

7/270 **FINANCIAL STATEMENTS – APRIL/MAY 2010**

The Committee considered the report of the Finance Administrator (Agenda item 11 refers).

**RESOLVED**

that the Financial Statements and payments therein for the above months be approved.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

There were no comments from members of the public.

7/271 **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.

7/272 **STAFFING ISSUES**

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

The Town Clerk gave an update at the meeting on the progress that had been made in this matter since the May meeting.

During the ensuing discussion, Members expressed their support for the action that had been taken.

**RESOLVED** that the matter be noted.

Chairman

28/07/10  
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