



Yeovil Town Council

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Yeovil Town Council

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

The Time... **7.30pm**

The Date... **Tuesday 7 July 2009**

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

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



Alan Tawse

Alan Tawse

Town Clerk

30 June 2009

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

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

AGENDA

Prayers

Public Comment (15 Minutes)

1. MINUTES

To confirm as a correct record the Minutes of the previous meeting held on 1 July 2009.

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. YEOVIL DISTRICT HOSPITAL

Gavin Boyle - Chief Executive of the Yeovil District Hospital NHS Foundation Trust will give a presentation on the Trust's achievements over the past year and its plans for the future.

	<u>PAGES</u>
7. <u>POWER OF WELL-BEING</u>	5 - 12
8. <u>PIONEER SOMERSET</u>	13 - 15
9. <u>NALC CONFERENCE</u>	16
10. <u>REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COMMITTEES AND OTHER MEETINGS</u>	

(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

27 May 2009
8 June 2009
22 June 2009

11. REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

Yeovil Twinning Association

17 - 20

2 April 2009
28 May 2009

Yeovil Town Centre Consultative Panel

20 May 2009 (circulated separately)

Yeovil Youth Council

21 - 23

1 June 2009

Public Comment (15 Minutes)

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 2 June to 4 August 2009

04/06/09	The Mayor of Yeovil, Councillor Wes Read, attended an open day at South Somerset Women's Refuge
05/06/09	The Mayor of Yeovil, Councillor Wes Read, attended the Yeovil Stroke Club's 10th Anniversary Celebrations
05/06/09	The Mayor of Yeovil, Councillor Wes Read, and Deputy Mayor of Yeovil, Councillor Philip Chandler, attended the presentation of the South Somerset Voluntary and Community Action Volunteers Award
06/06/09	The Mayor of Yeovil, Councillor Wes Read, and Deputy Mayor of Yeovil, Councillor Philip Chandler, attended the Armistice Day Service
07/06/09	Deputy Mayor of Yeovil, Councillor Philip Chandler, attended Glastonbury Town Council Civic Service
07/06/09	The Mayor of Yeovil, Councillor Wes Read, attended 'A Woodland Story' at the Yeovil Country Park
08/06/09	The Mayor of Yeovil, Councillor Wes Read, attended the Yeovil Operatic Society's presentation evening
11/06/09	The Mayor of Yeovil, Councillor Wes Read, attended Yeovil Tennis Club's Clubmark Award presentation
12/06/09	The Mayor of Yeovil, Councillor Wes Read, attended the Somerset Association for the Blind's Low Vision Exhibition
12/06/09	The Mayor of Yeovil, Councillor Wes Read, attended the official opening of the Peter Street toilets
12/06/09	The Mayor of Yeovil, Councillor Wes Read, attended Yeovil College Hospitality Student Awards 2009
13/06/09	The Mayor of Yeovil, Councillor Wes Read, attended the Somerset Schools' Folk Dance Festival
14/06/09	The Mayor of Yeovil, Councillor Wes Read, hosted a charity bowling afternoon
15/06/09	The Mayor of Yeovil, Councillor Wes Read, attended the Fairmead School's Zambian Assembly
17/06/09	The Mayor of Yeovil, Councillor Wes Read, attended the Yeovil College FEAST
19/06/09	The Mayor of Yeovil, Councillor Wes Read, attended the Civic Day of the Mayor of Chickerell
19/06/09	The Mayor of Yeovil, Councillor Wes Read, attended Yeovil College's Summer Spectacular
20/06/09	The Mayor of Yeovil, Councillor Wes Read, attended Fiveways School summer fete
20/06/09	The Mayor of Yeovil, Councillor Wes Read, attended the official opening of the new Cooker King premises
21/06/09	The Mayor of Yeovil, Councillor Wes Read, attended a Fun Dog Show raising funds for the RSPCA
21/06/09	The Mayor of Yeovil, Councillor Wes Read, attended National Osteoporosis Society's sponsored walk
21/06/09	Deputy Mayor of Yeovil, Councillor Philip Chandler, attended Wareham Town Council's Civic Service
24/06/09	The Mayor of Yeovil, Councillor Wes Read, attended South Somerset Disability Forum's Coffee morning
24/06/09	Deputy Mayor of Yeovil, Councillor Philip Chandler, attended the NSPCC AGM
24/06/09	The Mayor of Yeovil, Councillor Wes Read, attended the Annual General Meeting of Yeovil and District Scouts

25/06/09	The Mayor of Yeovil, Councillor Wes Read, attended Preston School presentation evening
25/06/09	The Deputy Mayor of Yeovil, Councillor Philip Chandler, attended the Yeovil College presentation
26/06/09	The Mayor of Yeovil, Councillor Wes Read, attended the Yeovil Federation's Student Leadership Conference
26/06/09	The Mayor of Yeovil, Councillor Wes Read, attended the Girls' Brigade display afternoon
26/06/09	Deputy Mayor of Yeovil, Councillor Philip Chandler, attended South Somerset Link Education Centre's celebration day
28/06/09	The Mayor of Yeovil, Councillor Wes Read, attended a dog show at West Camel
30/06/09	The Mayor of Yeovil, Councillor Wes Read, attended Westfield Community School's Fundraising Summer Concert
01/07/09	The Mayor of Yeovil, Councillor Wes Read, will attend the unveiling of the Stainless Steel Sculpture at Buckler's Mead Community School
02/07/09	The Mayor of Yeovil, Councillor Wes Read, will attend an Olympic celebrations for schools event
04/07/09	The Mayor of Yeovil, Councillor Wes Read, will attend Elim Pentecostal Church 'Edge Extreme'
04/07/09	The Mayor of Yeovil, Councillor Wes Read, will attend the Yeovil Twinning Association dinner with visitors from Taunusstein
04/07/09	Deputy Mayor of Yeovil, Councillor Philip Chandler, will attend Nephrotic Syndrome Trust's charity concert
05/07/09	The Mayor of Yeovil, Councillor Wes Read, will attend Weston-super-Mare Town Council's Annual Civic Service
05/07/09	The Mayor of Yeovil, Councillor Wes Read, will host the Annual Civic Service
07/07/09	The Mayor of Yeovil, Councillor Wes Read, will attend the Yeovil Twinning Association's Treasure Hunt with visitors from Taunusstein
07/07/09	The Mayor of Yeovil, Councillor Wes Read, will attend the Citizens Advice Bureau AGM
10/07/09	Deputy Mayor of Yeovil, Councillor Philip Chandler, will attend Girlguiding's presentation on 'Changing the World'
11/07/09	The Mayor of Yeovil, Councillor Wes Read, will attend an evening patrol with the Yeovil Street Pastors
11/07/09	Deputy Mayor of Yeovil, Councillor Philip Chandler, will attend Friends of St John's afternoon tea
12/07/09	The Mayor of Yeovil, Councillor Wes Read, will attend the Elim Pentecostal Church Pre-school Children's Graduation Service
14/07/09	The Mayor of Yeovil, Councillor Wes Read, will attend the Firebreak Passing Out Parade in Somerton
16/07/09	The Mayor of Yeovil, Councillor Wes Read, will attend Castaways' production of 'Peter Pan'
17/07/09	The Mayor of Yeovil, Councillor Wes Read, will attend the official opening of the Fiveways School hydrotherapy pool
18/07/09	The Mayor of Yeovil, Councillor Wes Read, will attend the opening of the National Archaeology Fortnight
19/07/09	The Mayor of Yeovil, Councillor Wes Read, will host a charity swimathon
22/07/09	The Mayor of Yeovil, Councillor Wes Read, will greet the Yeovil in Bloom Judges
29/07/09	The Mayor of Yeovil, Councillor Wes Read, will attend the Yeovil District Hospital's Volunteers' Reception

7. **POWER OF WELL-BEING**

The power of well-being is a new statutory power granted to eligible town and parish councils to promote or improve the economic, social or environmental well-being of their area.

Examples of how the new power may be used are included in the attached extract (pages 7 to 12) from the statutory guidance recently published by the Government.

The criteria that local councils must meet to become eligible councils are:

- A qualified clerk (to include the well-being module)
- A minimum of two-thirds of vacancies on the council filled at the last ordinary elections
- At least 80% of councillors trained in the use of the well-being power
- Published a statement of intent as to community engagement

Once the council meets the above criteria, it can only use the well-being power if it passes a resolution at a meeting of the full council which confirms that the criteria have been met.

The eligibility lasts from when the resolution is passed until the day before the day of the annual meeting that is held by the council in a year of ordinary elections.

In exercising this power, local councils must have regard to any community strategy prepared by a relevant principal council and to any statutory guidance issued by order of the Secretary of State.

The Town Clerk, who is already qualified, has successfully completed the *additional* module of the Certificate in Local Council Administration (CiLCA) relating to the new power. In addition, *all* vacancies on the Town Council were filled at the last ordinary elections in May 2007, and therefore the Town Council now meets two of the four criteria.

Turning to the third criterion, discussions have taken place with the County Secretary of the Somerset Association of Local Councils, who has offered to provide training for members of interested councils in the use of the new power. To maximise the benefit of the training and to help reduce costs, he has proposed that a joint training exercise (two hours) be held in the Town House along with members of Brympton Parish Council on one of the following evenings:

Thurs 23 July (*second choice of Brympton Parish Council*)

Mon 27 July (*first choice of Brympton Parish Council*)

Thurs 30 July

Thurs 6 August

Tues 11 August

Wed 12 August

Thurs 13 August

With regard to the fourth criterion, a draft statement of intent as to community engagement will be submitted to a future meeting for consideration.

Council is **RECOMMENDED** to:

- (1) note the developments in this matter;
- (2) agree an appropriate date for members of the Town Council to receive joint training with members of Brympton Parish Council in the use of the power of well-being; and
- (3) await the submission of a draft statement as to community engagement.

(Alan Tawse, Town Clerk - 01935 382424)

Chapter 4: Scope of the power to promote well-being

50. Sections 2 and 4 of the Local Government Act 2000 (the 2000 Act), set out the details of the well-being power and in so doing make reference to “local authorities”. Section 77 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 (the 2007 Act) has extended the power of well-being to “eligible parish councils”. For the purpose of this chapter references to “local authorities” have been replaced with references to “eligible councils”.
51. This chapter refers mainly to provisions in the 2000 Act. For the purpose of this chapter references to sections and/or subsections of legislation are references to sections of the 2000 Act, unless otherwise indicated.

Who can use the power of well-being?

52. Section 1 has been amended to include eligible councils to the list of authorities that can use the power of well-being.⁹
53. The power does not apply in relation to parish meetings¹⁰ and has not been extended to community councils in Wales.

Promotion or improvement of well-being

54. Section 2(1) enables an eligible council to use the power to promote well-being where it considers this will achieve any one or more of the following three objectives:
- a) the promotion or improvement of the economic well-being of its area
 - b) the promotion or improvement of the social well-being of its area
 - c) the promotion or improvement of the environmental well-being of its area
55. The power is drafted in this way in order to maximise its flexibility. Each of its three components can be used either separately or in combination.

⁹ The other local authorities listed are county councils, district councils, London borough councils, the Common Council of the City of London and the Council of the Isles of Scilly. This definition includes unitary authorities.

¹⁰ Parish meetings differ from parish councils in that they are not corporate bodies. They exist to discuss the affairs of the local community and do not have the full range of powers of parish councils except where express powers enable them to exercise certain functions.

56. An eligible council should use the power to undertake activity which in the proper judgment of the council is appropriate in respect of achieving the above objectives. In exercising the power, an eligible council should not put strain on other activity or services it provides. Local people should benefit from activities undertaken using the power without there being a disproportionate cost in terms of the council's resources or an unnecessary overlap with any of the activity that the council or other tiers of local government in the area are undertaking.
57. The power provides a strong basis on which to deliver many of the priorities identified by local communities evidenced for example by sustainable community strategies and community-led plans. Eligible councils are not required to prepare sustainable community strategies as the Government does not want to place an additional burden on local councils. However, section 4A(2) of the 2007 Act requires that, in exercising the well-being power, an eligible council must have regard to any sustainable community strategy prepared by a principal authority in whose area the council is situated. The Government would not expect an eligible council to use the power in a way which is inconsistent with the aims and objectives set out in that strategy. However, the need to take account of a principal authority's sustainable community strategy does not mean that each and every use of the power must relate to that strategy.
58. The Government considers the term "promotion of economic, social or environmental well-being" to be sufficiently broad to encompass both cultural well-being and the promotion or improvement of the health of a council's residents or visitors to the council's area. It is for an eligible council itself to decide whether any particular action taken pursuant to the well-being power would promote or improve well-being, taking account of the local circumstances and the wishes and needs of the communities it serves. To this extent, the nature and appropriateness of the use of the well-being power will differ for each eligible council. An eligible council would, of course, need to interpret these terms in accordance with the general principle of "Wednesbury reasonableness"¹¹.

¹¹ This relates to the actions of a local authority or other public body in exercising its discretion, and relates to whether the body has acted irrationally (rather than ultra vires). The definition was given by Lord Greene in the *Wednesbury* case (1948 1 KB 223):

"When an executive discretion is entrusted by Parliament to a body such as the local authority in this case, what appears to be an exercise of that discretion can only be challenged in the courts in a limited class of case ... When discretion of this kind is granted, the law recognises certain principles upon which that discretion must be exercised, but within the four corners of those principles the discretion, in my opinion, is an absolute one and cannot be questioned in any court of law ... If, in the statute conferring the discretion, there is to be found expressly or by implication matters which the authority exercising the discretion ought to have regard to, then in exercising the discretion it must have regard to those matters. Conversely, if the nature of the subject matter and the general interpretation of the Act make it clear that certain matters would not be germane to the matter in question, the authority must disregard those irrelevant collateral matters. There have been in the cases expressions used relating to the sort of thing that authorities must not do ... bad faith, dishonesty – those of course stand by themselves ... Discretion must be exercised reasonably. He must call his own attention to the matters which he is bound to consider, and exclude from his consideration matters which are irrelevant to what he has to consider. If he does not obey those rules, he must truly be said, and often is said, to be acting unreasonably."

59. Unless it is specifically restricted on the face of legislation, the power can also be used instead of existing, more specific powers. For example where an eligible council has a discretionary power to provide a specific service to a defined group of people, or make a grant to a defined type of organisation, the well-being power can be used instead and can also be used to extend the service to other groups or make a grant available to other organisations, where it will improve the well-being of individuals, groups or the community as a whole.

Who must benefit?

60. Section 2(2) explains that the power can be used in relation to, or for the benefit of, any one or more of the following categories:
- the whole of the council's area
 - a part of the council's area
 - all persons resident or present in the council's area
 - any person resident or present in the council's area
61. The provisions have been drafted to provide maximum flexibility. The definition of "persons present" in an area includes groups such as people working in the area, tourists, commuters and travellers.

Possible uses of the well-being power

62. Section 2(4) states: "The power under subsection (1) includes power for eligible councils to:
- a) incur expenditure;*
 - b) give financial assistance to any person;*
 - c) enter into arrangements or agreements with any person;*
 - d) co-operate with, or facilitate or co-ordinate the activities of any person;*
 - e) exercise on behalf of any person any functions of that person; and*
 - f) provide staff, goods, services or accommodation to any person."*
63. This is not an exhaustive list of the sorts of activities that could be undertaken under the well-being power. Section 2(6) states explicitly that "Nothing in subsection (4) or (5) affects the generality of the power under subsection (1)."

Power to “incur expenditure” and to “give financial assistance to any person”

64. Subparagraphs (a) and (b) (of section 2(4)) as set out above can be taken together. They make it clear that eligible councils can regard the section 2 provisions as a broad spending power. When eligible councils undertake any activity in pursuit of one, a combination of, or all the elements of well-being, the well-being power enables them to incur expenditure, and specifically identifies the provision of financial assistance as one means of doing so.
65. In contrast to the provisions in section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972, section 2(1) of the 2000 Act contains no restriction or limitation on the amount of money an eligible council can spend. Councils will be able to fund the activities of different groups and bodies, as well as invest in such activities, if they consider that this expenditure contributes to the economic, social or environmental well-being of the local area. Such financial assistance may be given by any means councils consider appropriate, including by way of grants or loans, or by the provision of guarantees.

Power to “enter into arrangements or agreements with any person” and to “co-operate with, or facilitate or co-ordinate the activities of any person”

66. The well-being power is designed to support the efforts of eligible councils and their partners to work more closely together on initiatives, by providing councils with powers to make arrangements or agreements with any person and by allowing them to co-operate with, or facilitate or co-ordinate the activities of any person. Such provisions are designed to make it easier for councils and their partners to work together.

Power to “exercise on behalf of any person any functions of that person” and power to “provide staff, goods, services or accommodation to any person”

67. Subparagraph (e) clarifies that the well-being power enables eligible councils to take on functions currently undertaken by their partners.
68. This ability for an eligible council to undertake a function on behalf of another body does not transfer any statutory responsibility or accountability for the carrying out of that function. It does, however, give greater scope to councils and their partners to determine how best to discharge their functions.
69. The provision in subparagraph (f) leaves eligible councils in no doubt that, in addition to providing financial assistance, they can also provide other forms of assistance including staff, goods and services and accommodation, ie they can make such a contribution “in kind”.

Power to form companies and other corporate bodies

70. The well-being power will also enable eligible councils to form or participate (but not to trade for a commercial purpose – see paragraph 92) in companies, trusts, or charities, including joint venture companies, provided that they are satisfied that the formation of, or participation in, a particular company is likely to achieve the promotion or improvement of the economic, social or environmental well-being of the council's area. Such participation could give rise to dividend payments to the council as a shareholder. In the Government's view, such dividends would not amount to raising money for the purposes of section 3(2) (see paragraphs 86-92). Indeed, a council may be acting contrary to its fiduciary duty to local taxpayers if it failed to ensure such a return on its investment.
71. Formation of and participation in companies using this power, like any other, will be subject to the control mechanisms set out in part V of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 (LGHA 1989) and the accompanying Local Authorities (Companies) Order 1995 of which only the propriety controls remain in force.¹² Transactions by local authority companies would still need to be regulated under any new system of capital controls, since their expenditure has the same impact in the national accounts as that of councils themselves. Clearly, eligible councils who are considering using the well-being power to form companies and other corporate bodies will wish to take legal advice before doing so.

Action outside an authority's area and in multi-tier areas

72. Section 2(5) states that the power under subsection (1) includes a power for an eligible council to do anything in relation to, or for the benefit of, any person or area situated outside its area, if the council considers that it is likely to achieve one or more of the objects in that subsection.
73. The meaning of this subsection is largely self-explanatory. It enables eligible councils to use the power in a way that affects areas outside their own boundaries, if that action contributes to well-being in their own area. The Government wants eligible councils to be able to act in the interests of communities and to be certain of their legal right to do so. To address community concerns they will need to work closely with other bodies that provide local services and with other tiers of local government.
74. This subsection will open up the scope for:
- more collaborative working with other authorities and local strategic partnerships

¹² Powers secured in the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 enables the Government to repeal Part 5 of the LGHA 1989 to be replaced by secondary legislation setting out propriety controls using accounting definitions.

- co-operation between neighbouring local councils
 - initiatives to address issues which do not recognise administrative boundaries, such as economic development, the prevention of pollution and the conservation of biodiversity
75. Sustainable community strategies and local area agreements provide the statutory framework in which co-operation between neighbouring or multi-tier councils can be identified and implemented. Statutory guidance on the duty to prepare a sustainable community strategy and local area agreements¹³ stresses the need for principal authorities to consult local councils and to address cross-boundary issues. In addition, from April 2009 principal authorities will have a duty to involve (by giving consideration to providing information, consulting and/or involving in another way) representatives of local persons in their functions. This includes involving bodies such as local councils.
76. The statutory guidance highlights how different tiers of local government and their partners need to work closely to address community needs and it is in this context that we would expect eligible councils to determine whether to use their well-being powers outside their boundaries. Any council planning to use the well-being power in a way that has a major impact beyond its boundaries should assess these impacts, in consultation with the relevant local councils, principal authorities and their partners. Newly established local councils in London will need to consider the strategies of the Greater London Authority (GLA), as well as the relevant principal authorities.

8. **PIONEER SOMERSET**

Last December, Members agreed the Town Council's response to the devolution of services survey, which the District Council undertook amongst all the town and parish councils across Somerset as part of the Pioneer Somerset initiative.

The survey was part of the devolution workstream and aimed to:

- Establish the current position in relation to District Council services that are being delivered by town and parish councils; and
- Explore the willingness of town and parish councils to take on any (whole or part) District Council services in the future.

The Chief Executive of South Somerset District Council recently wrote to all town and parish councils across the County (copy letter attached at pages 14 to 15) to give an update on the initiative and to outline the next stages of the exercise. This will include full consultation with town and parish councils on a planned analysis of the results of the survey.

Council is **RECOMMENDED** to note the matter and to await the results of the survey, which are due to be published later this month.

(Alan Tawse, Town Clerk – 01935 382424)

Pioneer Somerset

Yeovil Town Council

FAO Clerks to Town/Parish Council

Date: 2nd June 2009
Ask For: Sue Eaton
Direct Line: 01935 462565
Ref: Devolution survey
Email: policyandperformance@southsomerset.gov.uk

RECEIVED - 4 JUN 2009

Dear Clerk,

Pioneer Somerset : 'Devolution of Services' Survey update

What has been done so far ?

You will be aware that Pioneer Somerset is a programme of workstreams developed to explore the potential for improvement in two-tier working.

A high level review has been undertaken of the workstreams, where each has been scored to assess its contribution to the overall Pioneer outcomes of efficiency, reputation and customer satisfaction. Workstreams have been scored according to their 'do-ability' (ie speed of delivery, ease of delivery and probability of success).

Using this methodology, the three workstreams that scored highest were:

- Community Leadership (Political / Managerial)
- Shared Services
- Customer Access

The workstreams have been re-phased to focus on these three areas in order to allow resources to be concentrated on those areas most pivotal in delivering the agreed outcomes of the programme.

'Service Devolution' falls within the Shared Services workstream and is being led by South Somerset District Council.

The Service Devolution survey was sent out in 2008 to all Town/ Parish councils across Somerset. The aim of this survey was to:

- establish the current position in relation to District Council services that are being delivered by Town and Parish Councils;
- explore the willingness of Town and Parish councils to take on any (whole or part) District Council services in the future

When completing the questionnaire, it was suggested that councillors should be involved through a formal meeting. However, if this was not possible within the timeframe then the questionnaire could be completed by the Clerk of the Parish / Town Council. It was stressed that the results were about determining potential interest and did not mean a formal commitment at this stage.

South Somerset District Council has now completed the survey of all of Somerset's 321 Town and Parish councils to find out their opinion on:

- how district services are currently delivered,
- which services could be improved through potential devolution to local councils, and
- of these, which were the priority areas to consider in the first instance.

Many thanks to all those that completed the survey – your responses were much appreciated and will form the basis for the next stage. The initial response rate was low and so the timescale was extended to allow proper consultation at Town /Parish council meetings and to boost the number of responses, so as to obtain as representative a sample as possible. A final response rate of just over half (52%, 167 authorities) was achieved.

What's next?

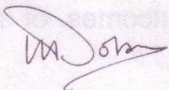
The aim of this survey was to find out any key services that could be transferred to town or parish councils so that services can be delivered at the most appropriate, efficient and local level.

The next stage is to share these results simultaneously with both the Pioneer Somerset Board and the Town and Parish councils. This will be done during July 2009. Further work will then be done on the areas that have been highlighted as a priority for initial focus. The top three services that have been identified from the survey will be further analysed to determine which ones can/ should be devolved to a local level. All Town/ Parish councils will be fully consulted on this work and will have the opportunity to contribute at a more detailed level. It is important to remember that the survey concentrated only on District Council services and that a similar exercise will be undertaken for County responsibilities at a later date.

If you have any questions with regard to this questionnaire then please contact Sue Eaton on 01935 462 565

Once again many thanks for your time and assistance in this important work stream. We greatly appreciate your input.

Yours sincerely



Phil Dolan,
CEO.

9. **NALC CONFERENCE 2009**

In May, the Policy, Resources and Finance Committee agreed to the Town Council being represented at this year's NALC Conference, which takes place in central London from Friday 4 to Saturday 5 September.

The theme of the Conference will be "Putting People First", and the conference will show how local councils can be at the heart of positive change through community involvement and wellbeing.

A number of topical issues will be covered, including:

- Recession and the economic downturn
- Planning and transport
- Housing
- Climate change
- Power of wellbeing
- Engaging with your communities and participatory budgeting
- Community governance
- Training and development

Delegates will have to opportunity at the Conference to question key speakers from organisations involved in the sector, as well as getting perspectives from councils on the ground.

In addition, there will be opportunities to learn from other councils' experience in formal best practice sharing sessions, and networking throughout the event.

The Committee agreed that that approval be given to the attendance of the Town Clerk and a member representative at this year's NALC Annual Conference.

Council is **RECOMMENDED** to determine the member representation at this year's Conference.

(Alan Tawse, Town Clerk – 01935 382424)

YEOVIL TWINNING ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on Thursday 2nd April 2009

Present: Jan Aldridge, Vera Gower (Treas), Roger Gower, Andrew Kendall, Kathy Smyth, Barbara Stimpson (Sec), Graham Voizey (Chair), Chris West

Apologies: John Attwood, Roger Baker, Martin Ford, Diana Gray (Hosting Officer), Theresa Mahoney, Tom Parsley, Sally and Richard Wallis,

Minutes: The minutes of the last meeting were agreed and signed.

Matters arising: The coffee morning had raised £51.65. Another had been booked for June.

Correspondence: Barbara had received a phone call regarding a request to twin with Yeovil or make cultural/sports exchanges from a resident of an island called Moyotte near Madagascar. It was agreed that she would call back the lady concerned and suggest that contact should be made by the authorities there with the Mayor.

Treasurer's report: £6986.36 balance, including £51.65 from the coffee morning. The first bill had been received for the forthcoming visits (Birchfield Hall).

Visits 2009:

Inward - Herblay: Friday 8th – Sunday 10th May 2009: Graham hoped to have the complete list from Francoise by Friday and no definite financial costings could be made without it. The Mayor of Herblay and his wife will be coming. However, no cyclists will now be with the party and Barbara will contact Yeovil Cycling Club to advise them of this.

£4.36 per person will be the price for Palmers' fish and chips (including 5% discount). Vera suggested the dessert could be apple turnovers, doughnuts etc. The cost of a coach will be £300 if required which will depend on the numbers; it was suggested that members' cars could be used to top up seats on the French coach. Discussion took place regarding reimbursing hosts for their French guests' meals on the day out, buying cream teas for the group or providing a buffet lunch at Minehead. Pricing seats on the coach was also discussed. Jan also suggested inviting non-members for the ride to fill up the coach for a given price.

Roger pointed out that the grant didn't time expire and if we use it judiciously, when it begins to run out we will apply for more.

On the booking form we could suggest that additional friends could come on the trip if they would pay a share of the coach cost. It was proposed that the coach fare would be 1/60th of the cost for YTA members, non members would be asked for £7.50, and the remainder of the cost would come out of funds. Chris said it was important to keep records of money spent on our visitors. Booking of the train cannot be made until we have definite numbers.

Graham had reminded Francoise that we would not be giving presents.

Kathy raised the subject of the Chilton Grove car park which we would normally use for picking-up/dropping off. Currently it is occupied by building equipment/materials. Vera volunteered to check out the football club car park.

Kathy enquired what time we would need the entertainers on the Saturday night. 8.30pm was agreed with the singers performing first for 20 minutes, followed by Dr Ts and a further 20 minutes from the singers later on. Vera will arrange fish and chips with Palmers and nibbles for singers.

Inward - Taunusstein: To be discussed later. We haven't received any particular requests from the Germans with regard to excursions etc.

Outward - Samarate: No further developments.

Fund raising/social: Kathy raised the subject of the treasure hunt to be held on Saturday 13th June at 3pm, as she needed to know what type of food to arrange and how much to charge. She suggested a minimum of six cars.

A raffle was suggested and a prize to the winner of the treasure hunt. With regard to contributions to drivers for fuel, £1 ph on top of £6 cost was agreed. Vera: volunteered to help Kathy with the booking form.

AOB

Several members attended the Buildings and Civic Matters Committee meeting of the Town Council on 24th March at which our grant application was rejected. Graham mentioned the report in the Western Gazette.

Roger and Vera will be leaving Yeovil in May after the Herblay visit and Vera's term as treasurer will therefore come to an end, necessitating an Extraordinary General Meeting to elect a new one. Another committee member will also be required to replace Roger. Roger suggested asking for volunteers in the newsletter about to be sent out. Vera suggested holding the meeting at the Baptist Church if possible and following it with a social evening to encourage turnout and raise funds. Kathy suggested enquiring about using the Town House as the venue. Other halls mentioned were the Monmouth Hall, Birchfield Hall.

Graham said we would probably need to have another committee meeting about Taunusstein soon afterwards.

The date chosen for the EGM was Thursday 14th May 2009 (if possible) at 7.30 pm (with a brief committee meeting beforehand). Donations would be requested for the refreshments and a raffle would be held. Barbara was asked to send out invitations to the meeting with nomination forms (and requests for raffle prizes).

Graham confirmed the quorum required was 15 members. (Suggested extra paragraph in constitution to be put forward at AGM : EGM could be called by any of the officers.)

Vera offered to type her cake recipes to hand on to members for future coffee mornings etc. Graham suggested that someone would be needed to take control of these events in place of Vera and Roger and volunteers will also be needed to run the newsletter.

Chris said we would all be very sorry to lose Vera and Roger and gave a vote of thanks for all the excellent work they have done for YTA.

Meeting closed at 9.20 pm. **Next meeting** to be arranged.

YEOVIL TWINNING ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on Thursday 28th May 2009

Present: Jan Aldridge, John Attwood, Roger Baker, Diana Gray (Hosting Officer), Kathy Smyth, Barbara Stimpson (Sec/Treas), Theresa Mahoney, Graham Voizey (Chair), Sally and Richard Wallis, Chris West

Apologies: Martin Ford, Andrew Kendall, Wes Read

The chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologized for the rushed nature of the committee meeting on 15th May. Graham said that the prime function of this meeting was to decide the programme of events for the visit from Taunusstein 2-7 July 2009.

Minutes: The minutes of the April meeting were agreed and signed.

Matters arising: It was agreed that we should put forward a request for funding to the BCMC again next year.

Taunusstein visit: A discussion took place regarding the proposed visit to Palmers Brewery at Bridport which had been provisionally booked by Kathy for 11 am on Friday 3rd July and the Treasure Hunt on Monday 6th. Diana had details about a fossil walk which could take place after the brewery visit, but unfortunately this was not available on the Friday afternoon. Kathy was asked if she could change the day of the treasure hunt to Sunday, when the roads would be quieter, but the pub providing the evening buffet does not serve food on that evening. Taking all things into consideration, it was decided to go with the provisional plans: the remainder of the day's activities was then discussed with suggestions including Bridport Charter Fair; Abbotsbury Swannery; Abbotsbury Sub-tropical Gardens; Portland Castle; Heights Hotel for coffee.

Friday 3rd: Leave Yeovil 9.45 am. Arrive brewery 10.45 am. Tour approx 1½hrs followed by brewery shop visit. Leave 1.30 pm (Cost £5.50 per head). Coach to West Bay for independent lunch provided by hosts. Leave at 2.30 pm via coast road to Portland. Visit Portland Castle (English Heritage) (40 mins) (English audio guide/German leaflets) (£2.89 pp group price/Tourist Information Office have 2 for 1 vouchers for English Heritage sites). Visit Portland Heights for cream tea at approx 4.30 pm (£3.99 pp in the Bistro). Visit to Portland Bill before or after cream tea, time allowing. Theresa agreed to make enquiries about the Portland activities. Rest of the day with hosts.

Coaches will cost £240 each, we will need two, and we will try to sell spare seats to non-hosts

Saturday 4th: Diana suggested a trip to a National Trust property and Stourhead was agreed, leaving at 9.45 am. Graham would again arrange for coaches. Theresa agreed to find out prices etc for Stourhead. We will need to be back at 5 pm to allow time to prepare for the evening's formal 2-course dinner. Discussion regarding the venue followed with suggestions including: various village halls, meal catered professionally (prices from £8 ph to £15.50 ph with additional costs for staff and hall hire); the Red House £12 ph but the function room may not be large enough; the Rugby Club £12 ph, not available Saturday; Halfway House £12 ph, also unavailable; Sherborne Hotel Raleigh Suite £12 ph inc tea/coffee; YTFC £7.95 carvery including coffee, no hire charge, £10 per bottle of wine. It was agreed that Jan would book Yeovil Town Football Club, 7.30 for 8 pm, choose desserts and arrange for one red and one white wine per table of 8, also fruit juice. Diane agreed to email Sigrid to ask if any vegetarians were in the party. The Mayor and Mayoress will be invited officially. (Action: Barbara)

It was agreed that we would ask the Town House if we could borrow their German/British flags for decoration at the dinner.

Sunday 5th will be free with hosts. Theresa suggested that the Music for Africa event at Montacute House would be a popular choice for the evening. Graham had an evening commitment and asked if his guests could be entertained by other members, which will be arranged.

Monday 6th: Free until Treasure Hunt arranged by Kathy, starting at her home at 4 pm, finishing with hot buffet at a pub at 7.30 pm, followed by skittles. (One suggestion for the morning was a visit to East Chinnock Church to view a window with special interest to the Germans. (TBA)

Tuesday 7th: Guests leaving Yeovil at 9 am.

Seats will be available on the coach if any members wish to see them off at the airport. As their plane leaves early evening they plan to stop somewhere en route, possibly Windsor. Likewise anyone wishing to travel to the airport to welcome them can do so. Coach leaves Yeovil Thursday 2.45 pm – Graham will be going.

It was proposed by Roger Baker and seconded by Jan Aldridge that we should use the Council grant money to pay for the German share of the activities during this visit.

Socials/Fundraising: A coffee morning was planned for 19th June, 10am-12 noon at the Baptist Church (£1 per head for coffee and cake). Graham asked for someone to take charge of this event in Vera's place, buying supplies and organizing on the day. It was decided that Graham would open up and others were willing to help out and provide cakes including Kathy, Theresa and Jan: carpark £1.80 for 3 hours.

Meeting closed at 10.15 pm. **Next meeting** Tuesday 16 June 2009 Yeovil College/Grahams. Apologies in advance: Jan, Sally & Richard. Need to talk about website and newsletter person, can co-opt member to committee.

YEOVIL TOWN COUNCIL

NOTES of a meeting of the **YEOVIL TOWN CENTRE CONSULTATIVE PANEL** held in the Council Chamber, Town House, 19 Union Street, Yeovil on **Wednesday 20 May 2009**

(6.00pm – 7.15pm)

Present:

Tony Fife (Chairman)
Clive Davis – Yeovil Town Council
Tony Lock - Yeovil Town Council
Ian Martin – Yeovil Town Council
Pat Martin – South Somerset District Council
Wes Read – Yeovil Town Council
David Recardo – Yeovil Town Council
Alan Smith – South Somerset District Council
Geoff Cave – Retailers and Retail Group
Desmond Lucas – Retailers and Retail Group
Tony White – Retailers and Retail Group
Harry Gibson – Yeovil Shopmobility
Sallie Leveridge – South Somerset Disability Forum
Vicki Stoodley – Western Gazette
Joe Conway – Labour Party
Fred Monson – Conservative Party

Also Present:

Alan Tawse – Town Clerk
Ian Budd – Town Centre Manager
Martin Woods – Area Development Manager (South) SSDC
Alan Brown – Yeovil Vision Projects Director

1. NOTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The notes of the previous meeting held on 18 March 2009, copies of which had been circulated, were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from John Hann, Tom Parsley and Derrick Pope.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

4. YEOVIL VISION

Alan Brown gave an update on the latest developments regarding the implementation of the Yeovil Vision Initiative.

With regard to the Reckleford – Highway Improvements, Alan indicated that the necessary land acquisitions had now been completed and, following a tender process, works were due to start in July and be completed by the end of November 2009. He added that disruption would be kept to a minimum and that no road closures were envisaged.

Turning to the development of Foundry House/Mill Lane site, Alan indicated that a full planning application had now been lodged, which included a mix of residential/retail use together with restaurant/café provision and office accommodation. He added that the proposed design incorporated energy and water saving features and that the proposal would form a new gateway into the adjoining country park.

With reference to the Princes Street enhancement scheme, Alan reported that the steering group set up to oversee the development of the project was now concentrating on the northern end of Prince Street and was working up a project proposal to bid for additional funds.

Martin added that ongoing discussions were taking place with Yeovil College and Yeovil District Hospital – with a view to securing improved access to both facilities from Princes Street – including enhancements to the existing subway link – and better signage.

Reference was also made to the intention to provide a number of planters on the built-out section at the junction with Church Street, and at the entrance to the pathway leading to the United Reformed Church.

During the ensuing discussion, members expressed their concern at the ongoing problem of vehicles parking on the pavement in Middle Street, and the damage that this was causing to newly laid slabs.

In response, the Town Centre Manager indicated that the Town Centre CCTV system was being used to help monitor the situation and to help trace the culprits and taking enforcement action. It was also noted that local traders had been reminded of the presence of loading bays in and around the Princes Street area to help encourage responsible deliveries.

Alan also referred to the progress being made in the provision of a Destination Play Area at Yeovil Recreation Ground, and indicated that the project was well underway and was due to open in July this year. He added that members of Yeovil Youth Council had volunteered to help with the repainting of existing equipment and he extended his thanks to the Youth Council for their contribution.

During the ensuing discussion, the Panel expressed their support for the efforts being made to deliver the Yeovil Vision.

IT WAS AGREED that the matters be noted.

5. TOWN CENTRE REGENERATION

Martin Woods gave an update on various ongoing/planned regeneration projects that were taking place in the Town Centre.

Martin indicated that work was continuing on improving property frontages in the eastern end of the Town Centre – including South Western Terrace – with grant assistance.

He added that efforts were continuing to look at ways of improving the appearance of and access to the Cold Harbour Lane area.

During the ensuing discussion, members expressed their support for the progress being made in Town Centre Regeneration Initiatives.

IT WAS AGREED that the matter be noted.

6. **HIGHWAY OBSTRUCTIONS**

The Panel considered the report of the Town Clerk which set out the progress that had been made since the last meeting regarding the investigation of alternative ways of publicising the location of traders operating in the Town Centre.

The Town Centre Manager indicated that he had explored the possibility of producing a leaflet which highlighted the location of all the retail units in the Town Centre along with other key information – including the location of car parks and public toilets etc. He circulated an example of such a leaflet which had been successfully used in Poole and sought the Panel's views on the matter.

During the ensuing discussion, members expressed their support for the production of such a leaflet, which was felt should be made available free of charge in local shops and in public buildings such as the Library, Tourist Information Centre and Council Offices.

It was also suggested that arrangements be made for receptacles to be fitted next to car parking paying machines to enable a tri-fold version of the leaflet to be made easily available to car park users.

Members felt that once the leaflets had been produced and was freely available it would be reasonable to take action to enforce the advertising protocol adopted by the Planning Authority, which restricted the display of a single advertising board to an area immediately outside the premises to which it related, and which did not cause an obstruction of the pavement or endanger pedestrians' safety.

IT WAS AGREED

(1) that the matter be noted;

(2) that the Town Centre Manager be requested to produce a leaflet along the lines suggested; and

(3) that the matter be further considered by the Panel following the production and distribution of the leaflet to suitable outlets in the Town Centre.

7. **TOWN CENTRE MANAGER'S REPORT**

Ian Budd reported on a number of recent and planned projects and initiatives, which he was involved:

- Disability and Equality Workshop
- French Market (13 June)
- Italian Market (1 August)
- Ladies' Week (Mid August)
- Christmas Lights Switch On (26 November)
- Family Christmas Day (13 December)
- Dealing With Beggars
- Community Pay Back Scheme
- Empty Shop Window Display Photographic Competition

IT WAS AGREED that the matters be noted.

8. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Public Toilets

Alan Tawse gave an update on the imminent opening of the new public toilets that were being built in Peter Street and which were due to open in Mid June. He added that the toilets would be operated and managed by Yeovil Town Council.

IT WAS AGREED that the matter be noted.

Yeovil Shopmobility

Harry Gibson reported that Yeovil Shopmobility would shortly be celebrating its 3rd birthday and, as part of the celebrations, an awareness day had been organised which would be taking place in the Quedam Centre on 5 June.

IT WAS AGREED that the matter be noted.

Lower Middle Street – Litter

Geoff Cave referred to a previous request that he had made for a litterbin to be replaced in Lower Middle. He added that a new bin had yet to be installed and this was causing problems.

He also referred to a recent change in the waste collection arrangements which was causing problems to local shopkeepers who were now expected to either leave their rubbish out overnight or to arrive at work much earlier than usual to ensure that the collection was not missed.

IT WAS AGREED

- (1) that the matter be noted;
- (2) that Ian Budd contact the Street Scene Services Manager (SSDC), as a matter of urgency, with a view to resolving the problem regarding the missing letter bin at an early date, and should any problems be encountered in achieving this objective, the Chairman of the Panel be informed; and
- (3) that the above outline change in the waste collection arrangements be investigated by the Area Development Manager (South) with a view to identifying whether a more convenient arrangement could be introduced which took into consideration the needs of local shopkeepers.

8. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

IT WAS NOTED that the next meeting of the Panel would take place at 6.00pm on Wednesday 22 July 2009.

Chairman

30/06/09
AT/KD

YEOVIL TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of **Yeovil Youth Council** held in the Town House, 19 Union Street, Yeovil on **Monday 1 June 2009**

(7.00pm – 8.35pm)

Present:

Freddy Bevan
Roberta Burns
Adam Coppard
Laura Coppard
Tamsin Eddey
Alex Fells
Lauren Graham
Hannah Law
Aaron Newbury
Thomas Sankey

Also Present:

Alan Tawse	Town Clerk
Zara Case	Area Youth Worker (SCC)
Angela Bromfield	Committee Administrator

(1) Election of Chairman

RESOLVED

that Freddy Bevan be elected as Chairman for the Municipal Year 2009/10.

(2) Election of Deputy Chairman

RESOLVED

that Thomas Sankey be elected as Deputy Chairman for the Municipal Year 2009/10.

(3) Appointment of Secretary

RESOLVED

that Roberta Burns be appointed as Secretary for the Municipal Year 2009/10.

(4) Appointment of Treasurer

RESOLVED

that Aaron Newbury be appointed as Treasurer for the Municipal Year 2009/10.

(5) Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Magenta Cousins and Emily Mangles.

(6) Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 20 April 2009, copies of which had been circulated were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

(7) Flagship Playspace

The Senior Play and Youth Facilities Officer (SSDC) Rob Parr had been invited to attend the meeting to give an update on the progress of this initiative, which is to be located in the Yeovil Recreation Ground later this year. However owing to a prior commitment he was unable to attend. The photographs were viewed from the repainting exercise at the Yeovil Recreation Ground on 9 May 2009, and Alan extended his thanks to everyone who had taken part.

RESOLVED

- (1) that the matters be noted; and
- (2) that Rob Parr be invited to attend the next meeting of the Yeovil Youth Council to give an update of the progress of the project.

(8) Youth Issues Meeting

A copy of the notes of the meeting of the Yeovil Youth Issues Group, on which Yeovil Youth Council was represented, that took place on Monday 23 March 2009 were attached to the Agenda. As Sam Ashdown attended this meeting and as he was not present at this meeting, it was felt that the matter should be discussed at the next meeting of the Yeovil Youth Council.

RESOLVED

- (1) that the matter be noted; and
- (2) that the above notes be included on the agenda at the next meeting.

(9) Training and Support Meeting

Zara had produced a draft table, (copy attached) of the Yeovil Youth Council's Meeting dates for training and support, for the monthly meetings at Morley House, which was circulated to the group. The session dates were discussed, and it was decided that a Fundraising day would be the preferred choice for the 19 August. Zara explained that she wanted the Youth Council to be able to organise the Fundraising day.

RESOLVED

- (1) that the matters be noted; and
- (2) that the proposed dates be agreed subject to 19 August being organised as a Fundraising Day.

(10) Any Other Business

The Yeovil Youth Council Website was raised by Adam Coppard who suggested that he would like to put together a plan on creating a website for the Yeovil Youth Council. It was agreed that Adam would produce a presentation to the group after the School Summer holidays and if everyone was happy with these ideas then the domain would be registered at a cost of £7 for a two year period.

Alan explained that he was still awaiting advice from the IT Unit about safeguarding a Youth Council email address. It was proposed to help improve communication between Youth Councillors, that the Youth Council should write down their contact details and Angela would then compile a letter to other members who were not in attendance requesting this information. Then would create a table of contact details to be distributed to members of the Youth Council only. These contact details would not be given to anyone else.

RESOLVED

- (1) that the matters be noted; and
- (2) that the Youth Council's thanks to Adam for offering to create a new website be recorded and further consideration be given at the next meeting to the content of the website, and a presentation on the design and layout and on the agreed content be made at the September meeting.

(11) Date of next Meeting

The list of the proposed meetings for the next year were enclosed within the Agenda.

RESOLVED

- (1) that the next meeting of the Youth Council take place at 7.00pm on Monday 29 June 2009; and
- (2) that the remainder of the proposed dates of 2009/10 be approved subject to a suitable date being agreed for the Annual General Meeting 2010.

Chairman