

YEOVIL TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of a meeting of the **PROMOTIONS AND ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE** held in the Town House, 19 Union Street, Yeovil on **Tuesday 16 March 2010**

(7.00pm to 8.20pm)

Present:

David Recardo (Chairman)
Philip Chandler
Dave Gooding
Wes Read

Also Present:

Becky Britten – Development Worker (SSCVA)
Steve Fox - Landscape Officer (SSDC)
Alan Tawse – Town Clerk
Sarah Hunt – Assistant Town Clerk

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no comments from members of the public.

7/205 MINUTES

The Minutes of the previous meeting held on 12 January 2010, copies of which had been circulated, were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

7/206 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Tony Fife, Ian Martin, Pat Martin, Ruth Kendall and Alan Smith.

7/207 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

7/208 CORRESPONDENCE

There were no items of correspondence.

7/209 SSVCA CHARITIES FAIR (Agenda Item 5)

The Committee welcomed Becky Britten from the SSVCA to the meeting. Phil Chandler said he had recently been to a charities fair and was impressed by the number of charities taking part, the range of information on offer and he also noted that every stall had a lucky dip or game to capture the interest of passers-by.

Phil said that there were a number of small, local charities in Yeovil who had neither the funds nor the infrastructure to promote their good work. A charities fair would be a way of enabling them to do this.

Becky mentioned the well-advertised voluntary event taking place at Chard Guildhall on Saturday 10 April and she had been impressed with the exceptional interest generated. She said that 28 out of 32 available tables had been booked by charities in and around Chard. There would also be choirs and theatre groups taking part, and it was hoped that the entertainment would attract family and friends and boost interest. Becky said that the Chard event would be a useful benchmark to judge whether a similar event would work in Yeovil.

Becky advised that although the SSVCA would be very supportive of the event and would provide contact details for the relevant charities, the organisation did not have the funds nor the resources to organise and run such an event and would be looking for the Town Council to work with them in partnership.

Dave Gooding questioned whether it would be useful to widen the event to South Somerset and beyond. Becky advised that volunteers and local charity groups would generally not want to travel too far and it would be more practical to restrict the fair to Yeovil and its immediate catchment area.

Phil felt that the fair should be a stand-alone event. A discussion ensued about possible dates. Becky advised that Volunteers Week was annually during the first week of June. However, she was also aware that this year, the 'Go Yeovil' initiative was happening the week after. It was agreed that there was not enough time to organise the fair for May 2010 but that there would be plenty of time to organise a successful event to coincide with 2011 Volunteers' week.

Phil suggested that the new Club Neo, which will be located in the old bingo hall at the bottom of South Street could be an excellent venue for an indoor event, as it had a very large dance floor.

RESOLVED

- (1) that the matter be noted; and
- (2) that a small Working Group be set up, comprising Phil Chandler, another Town Council Member, Town Centre Manager Ian Budd, Sam Healy, Becky Britten and the Assistant Town Clerk to discuss the feasibility of organising a local charities fair in Yeovil and to report their findings and conclusions to the Committee.

7/210 YEOVIL IN BLOOM STEERING GROUP MINUTES

Members considered the report (Item 6 refers) and Chairman David Recardo briefed the Committee that the Steering Group had opted to hold the September Flower and Gardeners Market on Saturday 11 September as there had been no news as to when or if the Farmers Market was going to take place. The day after the Steering Group meeting took place, the Town Council received news that the Farmers Market would be taking place on the

fourth Saturday of each month. Having met with the Town Clerk and Assistant Town Clerk to discuss the merits of each, David recommended that the date of the Flower and Gardeners' Market should be changed from 11 September to 25 September for mutual benefit.

RESOLVED

- (1) that the matter be noted; and
- (2) that the 2010 September Flower and Gardeners Market be held on Saturday 25 September.

7/211 **YEOVIL IN BLOOM (Agenda Item 7)**

The Landscape Officer, Steve Fox, described the work that the horticultural team had been carrying out in Sidney Gardens for the last month. As well as extensive pruning and weeding, the waste and dog bins had been replaced. Some replacement planting had been taken place, in discussion with the local Friends of Sidney Gardens Group (FSGG). The sensory garden had been extensively remodelled and the whole site was now much more open and welcoming. The FSGG had made some very positive comments and Steve had noticed more people using the gardens since the work had been done.

The team had just started work at Preston Park prior to the commencement of their annual Spring bed maintenance work around the Town.

Steve was working with a new community group based at Milford. He was helping them to design and establish an allotment garden behind Milford Church. It would be a medium-sized site consisting of ten small plots with communal sheds and Steve and some of his team would be showing plot holders how to grow their own produce, starting in Autumn 2010.

David Recardo congratulated Steve and his team on the beautiful display of crocuses and daffodils blooming along the verge of Lysander Road.

RESOLVED

that the matters be noted.

7/212 **FLOWER AND GARDENERS' MARKET UPDATE**

The Committee noted the report of the Assistant Town Clerk (Agenda item 8 refers) and agreed that the matter had been properly considered and agreed in Minute 7/210 above.

RESOLVED

that the matter be noted.

7/213 **GO YEOVIL! INITIATIVE**

The Committee considered the report of the Town Clerk (Agenda Item 9 refers) which gave members an overview of the forthcoming event, which was to raise money for St. Margaret's Hospice and Yeovil Women's Hospital by

encouraging local residents to take part in a pedometer challenge as well as a number of other activities designed to make people aware of health and fitness. The Town Council would be lending their gazebo to accommodate a planned static bike initiative and the South Somerset Disability Forum would be helping to organise a wheelchair mobility challenge.

RESOLVED

- (1) that the matter be noted; and
- (2) that Councillors and officers lend their support to the event.
- (3) that arrangements be made for the pedometers to be available for sale to the public from the Town House; and
- (4) that the Committee be kept informed of developments.

7/214 **FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR PERIOD ENDING 31 JANUARY 2010**

RESOLVED

that the Financial Statement for December 2009 and January 2010 be noted.

Chairman

SH
19/03/10