



# Yeovil Town Council

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The Meeting... **Buildings and Civic Matters Committee**

The Time... **7.00pm**

The Date... **Tuesday 23 March 2010**

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

17 March 2010

**Buildings and Civic Matters Committee**

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Please contact Sarah Hunt at the Town House for more information about this meeting

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To: All Members of the Buildings and Civic Matters  
Committee

J Vincent Chainey

Philip Chandler (Ex-officio)

John Cruddas

Clive Davis

Bridget Dollard (Chairman)

Tony Fife

Dave Gooding

Pete Goodman

Peter Gubbins

John Hann

Steve Hawker (Vice-Chairman)

Andrew Kendall

Tony Lock

Wes Read (Ex-officio)

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

### **PUBLIC COMMENT (15 minutes)**

1. **MINUTES**

To confirm as a correct record the Minutes of the previous meeting held on 19 January 2010.

2. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

4. **CORRESPONDENCE**

5. **GRIT BINS**

To consider a report by the Town Clerk attached at page 3.

6. **FIXING WREATHS TO YEOVIL WAR MEMORIAL**

To consider a report by the Assistant Town Clerk attached at page 6.

7. **ROAD SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS AT CARTGATE ROUNDABOUT**

To consider written information from Somerset County Council's Highway Improvement Programmer attached at page 7.

8. **HUISH FOOTBRIDGE RESURFACING**

To note a written update by the Somerset County Council Bridge Maintenance Team Leader attached at page 7.

9. **LOADING/UNLOADING PROHIBITION IN SOUTH STREET**

To note a report by the Assistant Town Clerk attached at page 9.

10. **BUS SHELTER UPDATE**

To note an update report from the Assistant Town Clerk at page 9.

11. **FINANCIAL STATEMENT**

To receive the Financial Statement for the period 1 December 2009 to 31 January 2010. See attached Financial Statement at pages 10 to 18.

**PUBLIC COMMENT (15 minutes)**

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## 5. GRIT BINS

Following on from the severe weather conditions that were experienced earlier this year, all ward members have been invited to suggest locations for additional grit bins. The following proposals have come forward:

- *Junction of Pen Hill/South Street*
- *Top/Bottom of Middle Street and South Street*
- *Junction of Goldcroft and Milford Road*
- *Area outside Milford School*
- *Goldcroft (near former post office)*
- *Yeovil District Hospital (near underpass)*
- *Junction of Higher Kingston/The Avenue*
- *West Hendford (near underpass)*
- *Forest Hill – three separate locations*
- *Rowan Way – top of Pine Tree Avenue and turning into Beechwood*
- *Cypress Drive – bottom and top*
- *Watercombe Lane*
- *Westbourne Grove*

Reference has also been made to the suggested reinstatement of grit bins in District Council owned car parks, which it is understood have been removed and placed in storage pending the outcome of a policy review.

At present, grit bins are provided in Sycamore Drive, Yew Tree Close and Marlborough Road. A bin has previously been provided in Plantagenet Chase, but has since been removed. In the past, the Town Council has contributed towards the costs of the Highway Authority providing grit bins at suggested locations subject to that Authority arranging for the bins to be kept filled with grit at their expense.

The Highway Authority have recently indicated that whilst they do not have a specific policy for grit bins, they do undertake to fill such bins during October/November and to re-fill upon request during the winter. They have further indicated that the position of grit bins needs to be agreed with that Authority.

The specification of grit bins has been discussed with the Highway Authority, and two alternative designs have been identified – a “slimline” version (160 litre - for use where space is limited) at a cost of £132 and a “standard” version (370 litre) at £167.

The Town Council is under no legal obligation to provide grit bins, but may use discretionary powers available under S137 of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) to do so. These powers may be used for any purpose which, in the Council’s opinion, is in the interests of, and will directly benefit its area or any part of it or all or some of its inhabitants. The benefit must be commensurate with the expenditure incurred.

Funding is available from the Committee’s 2010/11 Community Safety budget (£4,380) to meet the costs involved in procuring any additional grit bins.

On a general note, last month the Town Council discussed ways by which the local authorities responsible for snow clearance and gritting might improve their responses to future incidents.

In doing so, the Town Council noted the contents of the motion recently adopted by South Somerset District Council regarding snow and ice clearance across the District, and respectfully requested that the Town Council be invited to participate in the proposed joint review of the public service response to the severe weather conditions that were experienced earlier in the year.

This request has since been formally referred to the District Council and also to the County Council, who recently adopted the following resolution:

*This (County) Council applauds the work carried out by staff during the recent severe weather, to minimise the impact on all Somerset residents. During this time, our staff worked through the night to grit our priority network, keeping our residents safe and the County moving. This good work was recognised by many of our citizens and Members, together with our key partnerships such as the Somerset Waste Partnership Board. However, we are not complacent and we believe that there are still opportunities to improve our services and for improved working across the tiers of government – from County to Parish, which simply cannot be buried in the snow.*

*Therefore, bearing in mind the very real public concerns about snow and ice clearance, we call upon this Council*

- i) To review the adequacy of the budget for this area of activity (as approved later today) and review the Strategic Network salting and gritting routes.*
- ii a) To complete a review, working with District, Borough and Parish Councils and other appropriate bodies to assess the quality and quantity of our joint public service.*
- ii b) To apply the lessons learnt to review the adequacy of our policy, plans, operational practice and resources for this area of activity. This may lead to a review of the Strategic Network salting and gritting routes or, indeed, a review of District and Borough Council practice in deploying their Direct Labour resources, which proved extremely helpful to local residents in most District/Boroughs.*

*This assessment should be carried out by an appropriate mechanism – to be agreed between the Chairman of the Scrutiny Committee and Leader of Council.*

*It is our duty to respond to the very reasonable public concern raised over recent weeks and we request these members to carry this forward to ensure that any changes are in place before next winter.*

The Committee is **RECOMMENDED** to note the developments in this matter and to consider the provision of additional grit bins in Yeovil Town.

**(Alan Tawse, Town Clerk – 01935 382424)**

## 6. FIXING WREATHS TO YEOVIL WAR MEMORIAL

Members of the British Legion and Town Council have highlighted that the wreaths currently laid at the foot of the rather exposed Yeovil War Memorial are at risk of being damaged by pedestrians as well as inclement weather.

This is an issue that has been gaining prominence in recent years due to the growing number of wreaths being laid on the memorial on Remembrance Sunday. The increase is due largely to a greater awareness of the work of the British Legion on behalf of Britain's armed forces (past and current) and the public's ongoing, personal experiences of the effects of international conflict and terrorism.

The Yeovil War Memorial is located in a busy pedestrian precinct in the middle of the town, close to a café as well as popular bus stops. This tends to restrict the number of options available to protect the wreaths. The erection of wrought iron fencing around the memorial would, for example, require a large amount of space, thereby restricting safe pedestrian access and adversely affecting the streetscene.

Further investigation has revealed that a number of councils have made minor, temporary alterations to existing war memorials to enable wreaths to be safely displayed. I have discussed the matter with a local restoration specialist, who has provided a proposal for a temporary restraint system, which can be annually erected and dismantled for the duration of the wreath display period (please see the attached illustration). One of the key benefits of this temporary steel wired arrangement is that the work would not alter the integrity nor the appearance of the structure for most of the year. The memorial would look just as it does at present when the restraint system is dismantled.

Having consulted with the local British Legion Organiser, he recommends that wreaths be securely fixed to the wires using disposable plastic ties. This would take place following the formal wreath laying ceremony. Once attached to the wreaths, these ties could only be removed by using scissors or similar.

This work is likely to cost in the region of £800 (including fixtures and fittings) and, if supported, would take place in early summer, following on from a formal tendering process. The War Memorial budget currently stands at £280 but this is already committed to the repair of frost damaged stonework at the base of the structure. Assuming that the Committee wish to go ahead with the proposed works, it is proposed that the costs involved be met from a planned carry forward of an equivalent underspend in the Public Toilets budget. It should be noted that the Town Council would need to seek Listed Building Consent prior to any work commencing

The Committee is **RECOMMENDED** to note the report and to consider the proposal to improve the security of the wreaths and if approved, to agree to the costs involved being met from the above identified source.

*(Sarah Hunt, Assistant Town Clerk – 01935 382424)*



## YEOVIL WAR MEMORIAL: Proposed system for fixing wreaths

Concern has been expressed that wreaths laid at the War memorial tend to get disrupted because of the pedestrian traffic in the vicinity. Options might include the erection of temporary or permanent fencing around the war memorial but also the installation of an easily dismantlable restraint system such as that shown (Fig 1). Any intervention will require appropriate consent.

Proposed system:

- Drilling 10mm holes at the corners of each step (minimum 50mm beneath top of step) to receive stainless steel threaded collars that are fixed with resin and sit 10mm behind the surface of the stone.
- These can then receive 6mm stainless steel eye bolts screwed into position (Fig 2) – shank can be cut so that the seat of the eye sits about 10mm from the surface of the stone.
- Stainless steel wire (4mm diameter) is then threaded through each eye to make a ring around each step. The wire is secured with a wire rope grip (Fig 3) to a single rigging screw (Fig 4) for each step.
- The rigging screw is tightened to give a taut wire line that can be used to secure the wreaths. At the appropriate time, the system can be removed leaving just the sunken collars in the stonework. These will not easily be visible but the holes will probably need to be plugged in order to prevent the ingress of dirt and debris.



Fig 2



Fig 3



Fig 4

## **7. ROAD SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS AT CARTGATE ROUNDABOUT**

Gary Frecknall, the Highway Improvement Programmer, has written to the Town Council, seeking support for forthcoming safety improvements at Cartgate Roundabout.

An analysis of personal injury collisions was carried out and a number of road safety improvements have been developed for the A3088 approach to the junction to help road users identify the key hazards so that they can react and drive appropriately.

SCC's scheme includes a review of existing signage to reduce clutter and provide consistent and appropriate messages to road users. It will entail:

- Provision of additional advanced warning signing to highlight the roundabout for traffic approaching the intersection on the A3088 (with associated "Slow" road markings where appropriate);and
- Replacement of the existing advance direction signing to modern standards, using passively safe posts to minimise the danger to drivers in case of impact with them in an accident.

In addition, it is understood that the Highways Agency are currently investigating further engineering improvements to the roundabout itself for consideration in their future works programme.

The Committee is **RECOMMENDED** to note the report and consider supporting the proposed works.

*(Sarah Hunt, Assistant Town Clerk – 01935 382424)*

## **8. HUISH FOOTBRIDGE**

The following update was e-mailed to Town Council officers by Paul Tucker on 3<sup>rd</sup> March:

"I am writing to give you an update on the proposed works at Huish Footbridge (5150901), apologies for not updating you sooner.

The works at Huish Footbridge were originally planned to commence on Monday 22nd March 2010, following on from the improvement works at West Hendford Subway (5150701). However the works at West Hendford have run into a number of problems, the main one being the funding for the works and the scheme length extending due to additional works. As a result we, the SCC Bridges section, have agreed to fund these works to enable them to progress to a conclusion, which they are currently doing so.

This has obviously had a knock on effect with the scheme proposed at Huish Footbridge for a number of reasons and a decision was taken to postpone the works at Huish footbridge, the reasons being

- The funding allocated for Huish Footbridge has had to be diverted to the West Hendford Subway Scheme to keep that on track and there is no longer funding available within this financial year (2009/2010) for the Huish Footbridge Scheme.

- In the interests of safety we did not want to actively divert additional pedestrians through West Hendford subway when this subway was still under going substantial improvement/alteration works, as this would increase the pedestrian traffic and increase the overall risk to pedestrians being in close proximity to the works.

The works at Huish Footbridge have now been reprogrammed to commence on Monday 10th May 2010 as this is the first available date our specialist sub contractor could mobilise. The footbridge closure has been duly amended.

Whilst I appreciate that this delay is not ideal it may however result in better weather, which may result in the job being completed sooner. However with the way the weather has been of late nothing can be guaranteed. The only thing we can guarantee is that we are still very much committed to getting this scheme completed as soon as we can in the next financial year (2010/2011).

Best Regards

Paul Tucker  
Bridge Maintenance Team Leader “  
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Since the update was received, the temporary road closure order has been applied for and the footbridge is expected to be closed for ten days, whilst the works are carried out.

The Committee is **RECOMMENDED** to note the report.

*(Sarah Hunt, Assistant Town Clerk – 01935 382424)*

## 9. LOADING/UNLOADING PROHIBITION IN SOUTH STREET

Confirmation has recently been received from the Somerset County Council Highways Engineer that the draft traffic regulation order and public notice will be published on 1 April 2010 and copies sent to the Town Council. Assuming the order is confirmed, the road markings in South Street will be extended to run in an easterly direction from outside the Chemist shop to the junction with Union Street (Minute 7/196 refers).

The Committee is **RECOMMENDED** to note the report and await confirmation of the outcome of the consultation process.

*(Sarah Hunt, Assistant Town Clerk – 01935 382424)*

## 10. BUS SHELTER UPDATE

The three bus shelters ordered from Queensbury Shelters (Minute 7/215 refers) were successfully delivered and installed at the beginning of March.

A bus shelter opening ceremony was organised for the West Coker Road bus shelter outside Windermere Sheltered Scheme, whose residents had expressed support of a new shelter in this location.

Local residents, members of the Town Council, including the Chair of the Buildings and Civic Matters Committee, the Mayor and members of the Bus Shelter Sub-Committee, attended the short ceremony and were photographed by the local media. The ribbon was cut by local MP David Laws.

The Committee is **RECOMMENDED** to note the report.

*(Sarah Hunt, Assistant Town Clerk – 01935 382424)*