

YEOVIL TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of a meeting of the **BUILDINGS AND CIVIC MATTERS COMMITTEE** held in the Council Chamber, Town House, 19 Union Street, Yeovil, on **Tuesday 24 March 2009**

(7.00pm to 8.20pm)

Present:

Bridget Dollard (Chairman)
Clive Davis
Tony Fife
Dave Gooding
Pete Goodman
Peter Gubbins
Steve Hawker
Andrew Kendall
Tony Lock

Also Present:

Alan Smith – South Ward Member
Alan Tawse – Town Clerk
Sally Bing – Assistant Town Clerk

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mrs Costello addressed the Committee regarding the request for a bus shelter on West Coker Road close to Windermere Close. She explained that she had been campaigning for a bus shelter in this location for 3 years and that there were even more residents living locally requiring shelter from the weather when waiting for a bus in that location.

Mrs Frances Doble added that there was a high percentage of disabled people, many using sticks, who would really appreciate a bus shelter to shelter them from the weather whilst waiting. She added that she felt that the 3 bus shelters further along West Coker Road were hardly ever used.

Roger Thorne reiterated the comments of the previous speakers and added that vehicles driving through puddles on the road, caused water to spray over the pedestrians waiting for the bus.

Graham Voizey, Chairman of Yeovil Twinning Association, stated that following consideration at previous Policy, Resources and Finance meetings, the Twinning Association were appealing to the Building and Civic Matters Committee for the commitment of an annual grant to uphold the oaths signed by the Mayors and to secure the future of the Twinning Association in the Town. He added that Associate Members to the Twinning Association included Yeovil College, Preston School, Westfield School and Park School.

7/149 **MINUTES**

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

7/150 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Philip Chandler, John Cruddas, John Hann and Wes Read.

7/151 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Bridget Dollard and Andrew Kendall each declared a personal and prejudicial interest in respect of Agenda Item 6 (Yeovil Twinning Association) by virtue of their membership of the Organisation.

Tony Fife, Peter Gubbins, Andrew Kendall and Tony Lock declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Agenda Item 17 (Public Toilet – Lease Arrangements) due to their membership of South Somerset District Council.

7/152 **CORRESPONDENCE**

There were no items of correspondence.

7/153 **REQUEST FOR A BUS SHELTER AT WINDERMERE CLOSE**

The Committee considered the report by the Assistant Town Clerk (Agenda Item 5 refers). Concern was raised by Committee Members that if action was dependent on the outcome of the Local Transport Plan Review, the installation of bus shelters in Yeovil could potentially be put on hold for a further 14 months. It was commented that following the review it would be highly likely that the bus routes would still include West Coker Road and Preston Road. In answer to a query, it was confirmed that 41 residents lived in the sheltered housing close to the bus stop on West Coker Road near Windermere Close. The list of requests for bus shelters detailed in the Assistant Town Clerk's report was noted and concern was raised that if no action be taken the remaining funding for local transport support in the budget for the current financial year would remain unused.

RESOLVED

- (1) that the matters be noted;
- (2) that a request be made to the Policy, Resources and Finance Committee that the remaining funding of £5,232 in the Building and Civic Matters Committee Budget allocated towards transport support in the 2008/09 financial year be carried forward into 2009/10 as a planned underspend thereby creating an overall provision of £9,232 in 2009/10 which could be used towards new bus shelters; and
- (3) that the provision of bus shelters at suggested locations in the Town including Windermere Close be considered further and determined by a sub-committee of the Buildings and Civic Matters Committee

comprising representatives from each Ward across the Town. The representation on the sub-committee be referred to the forthcoming Town Council meeting.

7/154 **YEOVIL TWINNING ASSOCIATION**

(Bridget Dollard and Andrew Kendall each having declared a personal and prejudicial interest in this agenda item left the room during its consideration and took no part in the discussion of voting thereon).

(Steve Hawker in the Chair)

The Committee considered the report of the Town Clerk (Agenda Item 6 refers) During the ensuing discussion, Members expressed their support of the Twinning Association and the benefits the twinning activities brought to citizens across Europe. The Committee was also supportive of the aims and objectives of the Twinning Association, however felt that it was inappropriate to commit an allocation from the budget to the organisation for future financial years and that any request for assistance should be through the Council's grants scheme.

RESOLVED

- (1) that the matter be noted;
- (2) that subject to the support of the Policy, Resources and Finance Committee and the Town Council, the request by the Twinning Association for the Town Council to make an annual contribution of £2,000 towards its activities be declined; and
- (3) that the ongoing role of the Town Council in relation to Town Twinning be the support of the oaths signed by the Mayor of Yeovil and the Mayors of Herblay, Samarate and Taunusstein on behalf of their respective towns as follows:
 - to honour its Twinning arrangements by establishing and maintaining friendly relations with Herblay, Samarate and Taunusstein
 - to foster and develop mutual understanding and respect between the people of Yeovil and the people of Herblay, Samarate and Taunusstein
 - to encourage and assist youth and adult organisations, clubs, companies, groups and all classes of persons in Yeovil, Herblay, Samarate and Taunusstein to communicate and exchange visits with each other, thereby developing human and cultural relations and establishing a firm foundation for future understanding, respect and friendship between the people of Yeovil, Herblay, Samarate and Taunusstein for all time.

7/155 **REQUEST FOR A CONTROLLED CROSSING AT BUNFORD LANE**

The Committee considered the report of the Assistant Town Clerk (Agenda Item 7 refers). Members noted the request and the work of the Local

Transport Team at the County Council on the Western Corridor Study. The Committee supported a further referral of the request to the County Council.

RESOLVED

- (1) that the matter be noted; and
- (2) that the request for a controlled crossing at Bunford Lane be referred to the Local Transport Team at the County Council as part of the Western Corridor Study

7/156 **REQUEST TO COUNTY COUNCIL FOR A BOLLARD AT ENTRANCE TO SILVER STREET**

The Committee considered the report by the Assistant Town Clerk (Agenda Item 8 refers) and supported the request for a physical obstruction in the location due to the potential damage to the pavement caused by vehicles mounting the kerb at the dropped crossing and parking with two wheels on the pavement. Concern was also raised that insufficient Police enforcement appeared to be being carried out and requested that a list of convictions of drivers found to be parking illegally in this area over the past couple of years be sought from the Police. It was also suggested that the Town and District Council write to all taxi proprietors and drivers seeking their co-operation by refraining from parking their vehicles on the pavement.

RESOLVED

- (1) that the matter be noted;
- (2) that taxi proprietors and drivers be sent a letter requesting cooperation by refraining from parking on the pavement whilst waiting for a space on the taxi rank;
- (3) that the Police be asked to provide details of the number of drivers convicted of parking illegally in this area over the past couple of years; and
- (4) that the Assistant Town Clerk investigate the cost of installation of a bollard, railings and the re-siting and addition of cycle racks closer to the pavement edge, to allow the Building and Civic Matters Committee to consider provision of a physical obstruction to vehicles parking on the pavement in this area.

7/157 **BUS STOP MARKINGS**

The Committee considered the report of the Assistant Town Clerk (Agenda Item 9 refers) and a request was made for bus stop markings to be delineated on the road adjacent to the second bus stop on Meadow Road.

RESOLVED

- (1) that the matter be noted;

- (2) that the request for bus stop markings on the second bus stop on Meadow Road be forwarded to the County Council; and
- (3) that Ward Members be requested to submit any further suggestions for bus stops requiring delineations on adjacent roads be forwarded to the Assistant Town Clerk by Tuesday 14 April.

7/158 **REQUEST FOR RESURFACING/GRITTING ON BRIDGES OVER QUEENSWAY DUAL CARRIAGEWAY FOR SAFETY OF PEDESTRIANS IN ICY WEATHER**

The Committee considered the report of the Assistant Town Clerk (Agenda Item 10 refers). The Assistant Town Clerk informed the Committee that she had received information from the Assistant Highways Manager at Somerset Highways explaining that the report had been passed to the Project Team for Winter Maintenance and that the matter would be discussed as there were a number of foot bridges in Somerset that had experienced the same problems during the prolonged cold weather. The Committee discussed the matter and emphasised it was not just due to the cold and icy weather that the surface on the foot bridge over Queensway close to Tesco became unsafe, but also during wet weather due to the slopes and smooth surface.

RESOLVED

- (1) that the matter be noted; and
- (2) that the Assistant Town Clerk write to Somerset Highways explaining that the foot bridge over Queensway close to Tesco in particular required consideration due to its slippery surface in all weathers.

7/159 **OUTSTANDING TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDERS – UPDATE**

The Committee considered the report of the Highways Engineer (Agenda Item 11 refers).

RESOLVED

that the matter be noted.

7/160 **THE COUNTY OF SOMERSET (NEWTON ROAD, YEOVIL) (30 MPH SPEED LIMIT) ORDER 2009**

The Committee considered the letter and consultation plan from Somerset County Council (Agenda Item 12 refers).

RESOLVED

that the matter be noted and supported.

7/161 **THE COUNTY OF SOMERSET (GLENTHORNE AVENUE, YEOVIL)
(DISABLED PERSONS STREET PARKING PLACE) ORDER 2009**

The Committee considered the letter and consultation plan from Somerset County Council (Agenda Item 13 refers).

RESOLVED

that the matter be noted and supported.

7/162 **SPEED INDICATOR DEVICES - AMENDED SCHEDULE**

The Committee considered the report by the Assistant Town Clerk (Agenda Item 14 refers).

RESOLVED

that the matter be noted.

7/163 **PROPOSED CYCLE ROUTE AT QUEENSWAY SUBWAY - TO INCLUDE
DROPPED CROSSINGS**

The Committee considered the letter from Somerset County Council (Agenda Item 15 refers).

RESOLVED

that the matter be noted.

7/164 **FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR PERIOD ENDING 31 JANUARY 2009**

The Committee considered the Financial Statement for the period 1 December 2008 to 31 January 2009 (Agenda Item 16 refers).

RESOLVED

that the Financial Statement for December 2008 and January 2009 be noted.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no comments from members of the public

7/165 **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 (Admissions 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.

7/166 **PUBLIC TOILETS - LEASE ARRANGEMENTS**

(Tony Fife, Peter Gubbins, Andrew Kendall and Tony Lock each having declared a personal and prejudicial interest in this Agenda Item, left the room during its consideration and took no part in the discussion of voting thereon).

The Committee considered the confidential report of the Town Clerk (Agenda Item 17 refers).

RESOLVED

- (1) that the matter be noted; and
- (2) that the proposed Heads of Terms to be considered by the Policy, Resources and Finance Committee be supported.

Chairman

SB/KD
30/03/09