

YEOVIL TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of a meeting of the **POLICY, RESOURCES AND FINANCE COMMITTEE** held in the Council Chamber, Town House, 19 Union Street, Yeovil on **Tuesday 25 March 2008**

(7.00pm – 8.25pm)

Present:

David Recardo - Chairman
Philip Chandler
Bridget Dollard
Tony Fife
Julian Freke
John Grana
John Hann
Alan Smith

Also Present:

Alan Tawse – Town Clerk

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no comments from members of the public.

CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman referred to the forthcoming Annual Meeting of the Town Council at which he would be stepping down as Chairman, and thanked the Committee for their support over the past two years.

7/74 MINUTES

The Minutes of the previous meeting held on 29 January 2008, copies of which had been circulated, were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

7/75 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Andrew Kendall, Tony Lock, Ian Martin, Pat Martin and Wes Read.

7/76 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest.

7/77 CORRESPONDENCE

There were no items of correspondence.

7/78 APPLICATIONS FOR GRANT AID

(a) **Vitalise**

RESOLVED that a grant of £184 be awarded towards providing quality breaks for local persons with a disability (S.137 of the Local Government Act 1972 - as amended).

(b) **4th Yeovil Brownies**

RESOLVED that a grant of £1,000 be awarded to meet the costs of the organisation hiring Monmouth Hall (S.137 of the Local Government Act 1972 - as amended).

(c) **Yeovil Division Guide Headquarters**

RESOLVED that a grant of £850 be awarded towards the provision of a ramp at Guide Headquarters to improve access for persons with a disability (S.137 of the Local Government Act 1972 - as amended).

(d) **Pipsqueaks**

RESOLVED that a grant of £260 be awarded towards the costs of the organisation hiring Monmouth Hall (S.137 of the Local Government Act 1972 - as amended).

(e) **Yeovil Football and Athletic Club Ltd**

The Town Clerk confirmed that since the publication of the agenda, the applicant had confirmed that a separate bank account would shortly be set up by the Yeovil Town Football Club Community Sports Trust, which would oversee the management and operation of the new initiative.

RESOLVED that the application be deferred until the next meeting and, in the meantime, the applicant be invited to attend that meeting to clarify a number of issues, including:

- the membership of the proposed trust
- the young people to be targeted by the new initiative
- the medical and training equipment to be purchased
- the location of the planned training
- the involvement of the local community

7/79 CAPITAL FUND

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

During the ensuing discussion, reference was made to the possibility of setting up a sinking fund to help meet the cost of the Town Council contributing towards future play area upgrades.

RESOLVED

- (1) that the current position concerning the Capital Fund be noted;
- (2) that the further developments regarding the impending disposal of the former Goldcroft Allotment site be noted;
- (3) that the need to make an early commitment on the pledged Town Council's contributions totalling £180,000 towards the upgrade of the play facilities at Yew Tree Recreation Ground and the replacement of Town Centre public toilets be noted; and
- (4) that, subject to approval by the Town Council, these contributions be met from the anticipated capital receipt arising from the disposal of the former Goldcroft Allotment site, and that should this be delayed beyond the required payment dates, approval in principle be given to the contributions being met instead by a loan from the Public Works Loan Board – the amount and duration of which to be considered by the Policy, Resources and Finance Committee and determined by the Town Council.

7/80 **RISK MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2008/09**

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

RESOLVED

- (1) that the report be noted;
- (2) that the draft revised risk management strategy for 2008/09 be adopted; and
- (3) that the Committee is satisfied that the internal audit arrangements which are in place are effective and meet the Council's legal obligations.

7/81 **BEST VALUE**

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

The Town Clerk reported at the meeting that the recent customer satisfaction survey had shown a satisfaction rate of 80.2%.

During the ensuing discussion, reference was made to the representative sampling methods used by the Town Council in conducting its surveys.

RESOLVED

- (1) that the matter be noted; and
- (2) that the Committee notes this year's achievements and sets similar targets for next year's performance.

7/82 **NALC CONFERENCE 2008**

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

During the ensuing discussion, members expressed their support for the previously circulated draft motion put forward by the Chairman and the Vice-Chairman on the subject of car parking in town centres, but suggested that it be extended to incorporate a reference to the problems arising from high density housing in such areas.

RESOLVED

- (1) that the matter be noted;
- (2) that the draft motion put forward by the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Committee be supported, subject to the inclusion of a reference to the problems arising from high density housing in town centres; and
- (3) that the Town Clerk arrange for the draft motion to be suitably amended as proposed, and a revised draft be submitted to the forthcoming Town Council meeting for consideration and determination.

7/83 **FINANCIAL STATEMENTS – DECEMBER 2007/JANUARY 2008**

The Committee considered the report of the Finance Administrator (Agenda item 10 refers).

RESOLVED

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no comments from members of the public.

7/84 **EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

RESOLVED

that the press and public be excluded from the remainder of the meeting in accordance with Section 1 (2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 on the grounds that publicity would

be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

7/85 **INTERNAL AUDIT**

The Committee considered the confidential report of the Town Clerk (Agenda item 11 refers).

RESOLVED

that approval be given to the recommendations set out in the above report.

Chairman

AT
26/03/08