



# Yeovil Town Council

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

The Time... **7.00pm**

The Date... **Wednesday 19 May 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

13 May 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

Philip Chandler (Ex-officio)

Clive Davis (Ex-officio)

Bridget Dollard

Dave Gooding

Pete Goodman

Dave Greene

Peter Gubbins

John Hann

Andrew Kendall (Vice-Chairman)

Tony Lock (Chairman)

Wes Read

# **A G E N D A**

## **YEOVIL TOWN BAND CHEQUE PRESENTATION**

The Committee Chairman to present a grant cheque to Christine Buckland of Yeovil Town Band.

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

### **1. MINUTES**

To confirm as a correct record the Minutes of the previous meeting held on 23 March 2010.

### **2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

### **3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

### **4. CORRESPONDENCE**

### **5. GRIT BINS**

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

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

To consider a report by the Assistant Town Clerk attached at pages 4 to 6.

### **7. LOADING/UNLOADING PROHIBITION IN SOUTH STREET**

The Committee is asked to note that the objection period for any representations expired on the 28 April 2010 and no written objections have been received.

The Highways Engineer is now arranging the necessary signing and lining to take place.

### **8. ROADSIDE DIRECTIONAL SIGNS**

The Chairman would like the Committee to consider any instances where it is felt that the use of roadside directional signs are restricting motorists' views as they approach junctions and roundabouts in the Town.

The Committee is **RECOMMENDED** to consider the matter with a view to drawing the attention of the Highway Authority to any situations where it is felt any such signs could be better positioned in the interests of road safety.

9. **SPEED INDICATOR READING DEVICE (SID) READINGS FOR MILFORD ROAD**

To consider a report by the Assistant Town Clerk attached at page 7.

10. **FINANCIAL STATEMENT**

To receive the Financial Statement for the period 1 February 2010 to 31 March 2010. See attached Financial Statement at pages 8 to 14.

**PUBLIC COMMENT (15 minutes)**

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13/05/10

## **5. GRIT BINS**

At the last meeting of the Committee, Members agreed to defer a decision on the possible acquisition of an additional 20 grit bins to be placed in strategic locations across the Town to help deal with the effects of any future severe winter weather.

Although the current practice of the Highway Authority is to fill grit bins during October/November each year, and to refill upon request during the winter, it was felt that a decision to purchase the additional bins should be postponed pending the outcome of a general review of highway winter operations that the County Council has initiated, which it was anticipated would clarify their future policy regarding locally provided grit bin support.

Last week, the Town Clerk attended a meeting of the County Council's Scrutiny Committee at which consideration was given to the outcome of an initial internal review of these operations. As agreed at the April Meeting of the Town Council, the outcome will be reported back to the Town Council when the minutes of that meeting are available.

To assist the Buildings and Civic Matters Committee with its discussion on the specific matter of grit bins, the Town Clerk submitted the following question to the Scrutiny Committee meeting:

*In the past, Somerset County Council has worked in partnership with Yeovil Town Council to provide a grit bin service at agreed locations in Yeovil Town.*

*The Town Council has procured the bins and the County Council has provided the de-icing material and kept each bin topped up upon request.*

*Following this year's severe winter weather, the Town Council has carried out a review of grit bin provision and has identified an extra 20 locations.*

*Before purchasing these additional bins, can the County Council confirm that it is willing to continue supporting the Town Council in the same manner?*

It is hoped that the formal response of the County Council will be available for the meeting.

In the meantime, County Councillor David Greene has kindly allocated £3,000 of his local discretionary budget towards the costs of any grit bins that the Town Council may decide to purchase. This will cover the cost of all 20 bins should the Committee decide to go ahead with the proposals.

Members are **RECOMMENDED** to note these developments and to make a decision on the procurement of the grit bins following clarification of the County Council's future approach to filling grit bins procured by town and parish councils.

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

## 6. FIXING WREATHS TO YEOVIL WAR MEMORIAL UPDATE

The Committee agreed in March 2010 to fund a temporary restraint system for the War Memorial in the Borough, in order to secure the wreaths following the Remembrance Day ceremony. The intention is to put in place, on the day after Remembrance Sunday, a system for retaining the wreaths in a tidy manner during the weeks after the event.

From previous discussions with the Conservation Unit, it had been assumed that no objections would be raised to this proposed system, details of which were forwarded to the relevant officer in January 2010. Unfortunately, a response was not received in time for the last meeting of the Committee when the Unit expressed a desire for a 'non-invasive' solution to be found.

I then met with the Conservation Officer at the Borough and we discussed various 'non-invasive' strapping systems as well as the feasibility of looping thick gauge wire (or similar) around the structure, incorporating a locking device to hold the wreaths in place. The Conservation Officer agreed to liaise directly with the consultant who had been helping me to specify the work.

Having further discussed the matter with the Conservation Officer, the Consultant advised me in writing last week that the proposal to loop and secure wire around the masonry of the Memorial would be unlikely to be effective. He advised that there would need to be protection at each corner and it would be susceptible to be loosened by passers-by. To illustrate the point, please see the attached photograph of Weymouth War Memorial below, showing wreaths being affixed with a strap, which some Members may feel is not aesthetically pleasing or effective in Yeovil.



He went on to suggest that a less invasive but effective approach would be to have a crib-like structure (see illustration of London Cenotaph below) with stainless steel posts manufactured for each corner, with holes drilled to take wire, with rubber backing to minimise any damage to the stone from the wires.



As you will note from the two photographs of war memorials shown above, every war memorial is unique. Having 'surfed' the web, contacted the War Memorials Trust as well as three local Town Councils who have considered similar restraint systems, it is clear that no two memorials are alike and each system has to be individually tailored to suit the location and shape of each monument.

The Town Clerk and I will shortly be meeting with the Conservation Officer to seek a review of the advice given and to discuss how best we can progress the matter in an expeditious manner. Our aim is to complete the project by September 2010.

The Committee is **RECOMMENDED** to note the report and, if the original fixing system is still regarded as unacceptable by the Conservation Officer, to support an amended proposal to supply and install a 'non-invasive' restraint system as specified by the Conservation Consultant and agreed by the Conservation Officer.

Should the design of the restraint system already supported by the Committee need to be changed and/or the cost of carrying out the work exceed the originally agreed figure of £800, it is proposed that a report be brought back to the July 2010 Building and Civic Matters Meeting for consideration.

Please see attached a picture of the proposed system as submitted and agreed at the last meeting.

*(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

## **9. SPEED INDICATOR DEVICE (SID) READINGS FOR MILFORD ROAD**

Please find below extracts from the Traffic Engineer, Dave Grabham's report.

He says "I am conscious that I have not issued any data for the speed indicator devices for your area since January 2010, (information relating to the December 2009 installations). It was my intention to provide Parish Councils and Community Speed Watch Groups with more meaningful information for installations from January 2010 onwards. Unfortunately computer problems have delayed this but hopefully these issues are now resolved and revised information should appear shortly."

..."In the interim I attach the information relating to January, February, and March installations in the old format. I am hoping the revised information will be available for the April installations, which will be issued in May. I also hope to provide retrospective information for the January, February, and March installations as soon as possible after this date. Please accept my apologies for any inconvenience caused."

..." Milford Road was one of three sites to receive a SID for the third time, with the Barwick and Stoford readings up on the previous two readings and now

<b>Parish/Location</b>	<b>Element</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>
		<b>Originally Recorded</b>	<b>1st Installation</b>	<b>2nd Installation</b>	<b>3rd Installation</b>
		<b>Speed Readings</b>	<b>SID Readings</b>	<b>SID Readings</b>	<b>SID Readings</b>
Yeovil	Mean Speed	28.5	27.0	29.0	27.0
Milford Road	85%ile Speed	36.5	34.0	33.0	34.0
30mph speed limit	Traffic Volume	n/a	19591	21350	18634

being quite high. Yeovil on the other hand returned another low speed reading and was below the original speed reading. ..."

... "The Vehicle Counter Classifiers (VCC's) have been used extensively to record speeds and vehicle numbers at several locations and we will be introducing them as secondary recordings for several of the Speed Indicator Device locations later this month. They will also figure in future installations at any sites that are showing significantly high readings..."

The Committee is **RECOMMENDED** to note the report for Milford Road and to consider whether to make any comments in response.

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

