



Yeovil Town Council

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Policy, Resources and Finance Committee

The Meeting... **Policy, Resources and Finance Committee**

The Time... **7.00pm**

The Date... **Tuesday 25 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

19 May 2010

Please contact Alan Tawse at the Town House for more information about this meeting

To All Members of the Policy, Resources & Finance
Committee:

J Vincent Chainey
Philip Chandler (Ex-officio)
Clive Davis (Ex-officio)
Bridget Dollard
Tony Fife (Vice-Chairman)
John Grana
Steve Hawker
Andrew Kendall
Tony Lock
Ian Martin
Pat Martin
Wes Read
David Recardo (Chairman)
Alan Smith

A G E N D A

1. **MINUTES**

To confirm as a correct record the Minutes of the previous meetings held on 30 March and 11 May 2010.

2. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

4. **CORRESPONDENCE**

PAGES

5. **APPLICATIONS FOR GRANT AID**

(Circulated separately)

6. **CAPITAL FUND**

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7. **NEW INITIATIVES BUDGET**

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8. **CLLR JOHN CRUDDAS**

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9. **NALC CONFERENCE 2010**

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10. **BEST VALUE**

to follow

11. **ANNUAL ACCOUNTS 2009/10**

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12. **FINANCIAL STATEMENT – FEBRUARY/MARCH 2010**

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EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

The Committee will be requested to pass a resolution excluding the press and public 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.

13. **PHOTOCOPIER**

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14. **STAFFING ISSUES**

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(Confidential reports circulated to Members only).

6. **CAPITAL FUND**

A copy of the updated Capital Fund statement is attached at page 5. The sum of £5,596 is currently available for allocation to new capital schemes.

Former Goldcroft Allotment Site

Future sources of funding include the proceeds arising from the sale of surplus land at the former Goldcroft allotment site.

Last November, the Town Council agreed that approval be given to the acceptance of the highest bid received for the disposal of the above site subject to the bidder providing formal satisfactory evidence within the next two weeks of their ability to fund the acquisition.

The response was reported to the December meeting of the Town Council at which it was agreed that the disposal to the highest bidder be permitted to proceed.

The disposal of the site is proceeding as expected, and the S.106 agreement has now been completed. This paves the way for a certificate to be issued by the Planning Authority granting outline planning approval for the residential development of the site. In accordance with the disposal arrangements, contracts will now be exchanged and the purchaser will apply for detailed consent or reserved matters approval within the next two months.

Former Ski and Activity Centre

Another potential source of funding is the former ski and activity centre should the Town Council decide to dispose of the freehold as part of the redevelopment proposals.

Alder King have been instructed to market this site on behalf of the Town Council and, following a meeting between the appointed representatives of the Town Council and Alder King, arrangements were made for a revised draft development brief to be produced and submitted to the July 2008 meeting of the Town Council for consideration. The final brief was adopted at that meeting and the property was marketed and expressions of interest invited.

Details of those received were reported to the Town Council in March 2009, and Members have approved a process for assessing these bids and reporting back on their respective merits with a view to a final decision being taken by the Town Council in due course on how best to proceed.

All expressions of interest received to date have now been considered by the Steering Group set up to give initial consideration to the matter, and details of the bids received along with their views have been submitted to the Town Council.

Although the bid put forward by the Yeovil Community Church last September for the redevelopment of the site as a creative arts centre was supported in principle, the proposal was unable to be progressed at that time owing to factors beyond the Church's control.

Earlier this month, the Town Council agreed to concentrate on remarketing the property following a review of the current development brief, which will be submitted following the conclusion of the planned investigation by the Council's Property Agent.

Other Sources

Any funding beyond these sources will need to be in the form of a loan from the Public Works Loan Board, applications for which are considered on their individual merits and subject to funding availability.

Redevelopment of Milford Hall

Tenders have been received for the delivery of this project, and the appointed contractor began work on site last month. The redevelopment works are expected to be completed by Autumn 2010, and their delivery is being overseen by a Project Management Board, on which the Town Council is represented by Andy Kendall and the Town Clerk.

Members will recall that the Town Council has agreed to contribute £85,000 (including VAT) towards the project, which will be funded from part of the loan granted by the Public Works Loan Board (PWLB) towards several key capital projects. As agreed at the last meeting,

Play Areas

The District Council has confirmed that it has committed the following capital funding at the present time:

Play Area	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	Totals
Turner's Barn Lane						NIL
Yew Tree Park		£80,000				£80,000
Monks Dale Park			£15,000			£15,000
Milford Park				£20,000		£20,000
Summerhouse View						NIL
Preston Park				£12,500		£12,500
Howard Road Park						NIL
Total	NIL	£80,000	£15,000	£32,500	NIL	£127,500

The District Council has indicated that these figures are based on anticipated match-funding of 50% from the Town Council and that the revised list is a result of a districtwide prioritisation exercise that took into account the overall finance available.

It has also confirmed that the developer of a nearby new housing scheme has allocated £11,170 towards capital improvements at the Monks Dale Park play area which, when added to the combined pledged allocation of £30,000 from both authorities, will enable an enhanced scheme in the overall sum of £41,170 to proceed. A working group, which includes representatives of the local community and ward members, has been set up to oversee the delivery of this project and a public consultation exercise has been held at Preston Community School to seek the

views of local people on the planned upgrade of the site. A further consultation exercise has recently taken place at Preston Primary School.

The Town Council has agreed that its share of the cost of this particular scheme will be met from the anticipated capital receipt arising from the planned disposal of the former Goldcroft Allotment Site and, in the event that the receipt is delayed, the contribution be met instead from the General Reserve.

The planned upgrade of the Yew Tree Park play area is now completed, despite the adverse weather experienced earlier in the year, and a formal opening has been arranged to take place on 22 May 2010.

Recommendations

Members are **RECOMMENDED:**

- (1) to note the position concerning the Capital Fund; and
- (2) to note the current position regarding the rolling programme of play area improvements.

(Alan Tawse, Town Clerk - 01935 382424)

7. **NEW INITIATIVES BUDGET**

Mindful of the need to develop the range of services that we deliver to the people of Yeovil Town, the Town Council agreed to include an allocation of £20,000 in the 2010/11 budget towards new initiatives.

It was agreed that all the service committees would be invited to put forward bids for the use of this new fund, and that the Town Council would decide how this new fund will be spent.

To get the ball rolling, each of the service committees will be asked to consider this matter during the July cycle of meetings, and their responses will be fed back to the July meeting of this Committee and the August meeting of the Town Council.

The Committee is **RECOMMENDED** to note the matter and to consider whether it wishes to draw up any guidelines for the service committees during this exercise.

(Alan Tawse, Town Clerk – 01935 382424)

8. **CLLR JOHN CRUDDAS**

Last month, Cllr John Cruddas stood down from the Town Council for health reasons after almost 37 years service.

During his time on the Town Council and its predecessor authority, John served as Mayor on three separate occasions, and the Chairman would like the Committee to consider an appropriate way of commemorating John's contribution to the development of the Town.

In the past, the Council has bestowed the title of Honorary Citizen to four individuals in recognition of their outstanding achievements in their chosen field:

1983	Sir Ian Botham	outstanding achievement in the field of cricket
2000	Ann Daniels	outstanding achievement in the field of polar exploration
2003	Gary Johnson	outstanding achievement in the field of association football
2003	John Fry	outstanding achievement in the field of association football

The Council has also granted Certificates of Recognition to a number of local individuals and organisations to commemorate particular successes and to mark important milestones.

Until recently, district, town and parish councils have been unable to confer the title of "honorary freeman" on persons of distinction and persons who have rendered eminent services to the local area. However, the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 has extended this power to such councils, and has also introduced the title "honorary freewoman" where appropriate.

The Committee is **RECOMMENDED** to consider the matter.

(Alan Tawse, Town Clerk – 01935 382424)

9. NALC CONFERENCE 2010

This year, the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) has organised two identical one-day conferences in York and in Bristol to give representatives of town and parish councils the opportunity to learn more about a wide range of topical issues.

The event in Bristol takes place on Friday 2 July, and will be held at the Marriott Bristol City Centre Hotel at a cost of £90 per delegate. The event will also feature an exhibition of local authority suppliers.

The theme of the conferences will be “Localism in Action”. Town and parish councils will face enormous challenges over the coming year as the implications of public sector spending cuts begin to take bite. All the major political parties are talking about localism as potential solutions to the anticipated cuts in public sector funding.

These conferences will examine the practical implications of this and localism. It will look into the practical details of key areas that councils have to face on a day-to-day basis.

The following workshop themes have been included in the conference programme:

- Local Environment
- Local Economy
- Grant Funding
- Planning
- Youth/Disconnected
- Financial Regulations
- Community Spaces
- Communications and the Media

The Committee is **RECOMMENDED** to consider the Town Council’s representation at the conference to be held in Bristol on 2 July.

(Alan Tawse, Town Clerk - 01935 382424)

11. **ANNUAL ACCOUNTS 2009/10**

The External Auditor has written to the Town Council giving details of the arrangements for auditing the Annual Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2010.

These accounts must be approved by 1 July 2010 and, with this in mind, it is proposed that a special meeting of the Committee be held at 7.00pm on Tuesday 29 June 2010 for this purpose.

The Committee is **RECOMMENDED** to consider the matter.

(Alan Tawse, Town Clerk – 01935 382424)