

## 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 May 2010**

(7.00pm – 8.50pm)

**Present:**

David Recardo - Chairman  
Clive Davis  
Bridget Dollard  
Tony Fife

John Grana  
Steve Hawker  
Tony Lock  
Alan Smith

**Also Present:**

Alan Tawse – Town Clerk

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

There were no comments from the public.

7/240 **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the previous meetings held on 30 March and 11 May 2010, copies of which had been circulated, were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

7/241 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

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

7/242 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Clive Davis declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Agenda item 5 (Applications for Grant Aid – South Somerset Disability Forum) by virtue of his appointment as a trustee of the Organisation. Steve Hawker declared a personal and prejudicial interest in respect of the same item in view of the voluntary work that he undertook on behalf of the Forum.

Tony Fife declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Agenda item 5 (Applications for Grant Aid – South Somerset District Council – Local Strategic Partnership Programme) by virtue of his election as Chairman of the District Council's Area South Committee.

All Members present declared a personal interest in Agenda item 8 – John Cruddas.

7/243 **CORRESPONDENCE**

There were no items of correspondence.

7/244 **APPLICATIONS FOR GRANT AID**

- (a) Good Fellowship Club

**RESOLVED** that a grant of £250 be awarded towards the cost of transporting members of the organisation (S.137 of the Local Government Act 1972 – as amended).

- (b) South Somerset Disability Forum

*(Clive Davis and Steve Hawker having declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the following application left the room during its consideration and took no part in the discussion or voting thereon)*

**RESOLVED** that no action be taken regarding this application.

- (c) Monday Club

**RESOLVED** that a grant of £150 be awarded to help with general expenses (S.137 of the Local Government Act 1972 – as amended).

- (d) Vine Youth Ministry

**RESOLVED** that no action be taken regarding this application.

- (e) 4<sup>th</sup> Yeovil Brownies

**RESOLVED** that approval in principle be given to the application and a final decision be delegated to the Town Clerk subject to him being satisfied as to the level of grant needed to cover the costs involved in the organisation hiring the Hall. (S.137 of the Local Government Act 1972 – as amended).

- (f) Westfield Community Association

**RESOLVED** that a grant of £1,000 be awarded towards the costs of a community clean-up event in August 2010. (S.137 of the Local Government Act 1972 – as amended).

- (g) Octagon Theatre (SSDC)

**RESOLVED** that a grant of £1,000 be awarded towards the cost of the Annual Octagon Theatre Summer School (S.145 of the Local Government Act 1972 – as amended).

- (h) South Somerset District Council (Local Strategic Partnership Programme)

*(Tony Fife having declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the following application left the room during its consideration and took no part in the discussion or voting thereon)*

## **RESOLVED**

- (1) that a grant of £500 be awarded to help fund the costs of the "Streetfest Yeovil" event in July 2010 (S.145 of the Local Government Act 1972 – as amended);
- (2) that given the wider benefit of the event, the applicant be advised to approach neighbouring parish councils for financial support; and
- (3) that the organiser be requested to report back on the success of the event to a future Town Council meeting, and to outline the level of deprivation in various Wards in Yeovil and the work that is being undertaken in the local community to combat this issue.

### **7/245 CAPITAL FUND**

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

## **RESOLVED**

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

### **7/246 NEW INITIATIVES BUDGET**

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

During the ensuing discussion, reference was made to the need for the service committees to focus on putting forward ideas for *new* initiatives, as opposed to increasing expenditure on services already being delivered by the Town Council.

It was also suggested that the service committees be given two committee cycles to formulate their ideas before reporting back to the Policy, Resources and Finance Committee and the Town Council.

## **RESOLVED**

- (1) that the matter be noted; and
- (2) that all services committees be reminded of the need for this budget to be used for *new* initiatives and, to allow sufficient time for their ideas to be drawn up and developed, the proposals that emerge be considered at the September meeting of the Policy, Resources and Finance Committee and referred to the October meeting of the Town Council for determination.

### **7/247 NALC CONFERENCE 2010**

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

During the ensuing discussion, reference was made to the eight workshops that were to be run during this year's Conference, which was to be held in Bristol on Friday 2 July.

**RESOLVED**

- (1) that the report be noted;
- (2) that, subject to the agreement of the Town Council, approval be given to the attendance of three Members and the Town Clerk at the above one-day Conference at a cost of £360; and
- (3) that the representation be determined at the forthcoming meeting of the Town Council.

7/248 **BEST VALUE**

The Committee considered the report of the Town Clerk (Agenda item 10 refers).

**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.

7/249 **ANNUAL ACCOUNTS 2009/10**

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

**RESOLVED**

- (1) that the report be noted;
- (2) that a special meeting of the Committee be held at 7.00pm on Tuesday 29 June 2010 for the purpose of approving the Annual Accounts 2009/10; and
- (3) that all Members of the Committee be reminded of this special meeting.

7/250 **FINANCIAL STATEMENTS – FEBRUARY/MARCH 2010**

The Committee considered the report of the Finance Administrator (Agenda item 12 refers).

The Town Clerk circulated updated expenditure spreadsheets for the Capital Account at the meeting.

**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.

### **7/251 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.

### **7/252 JOHN CRUDDAS**

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

It was noted that last month, former Cllr John Cruddas had stood down from the Town Council for health reasons after almost 37 years service, and that during his time on the Town Council and its predecessor authority, he had served as Mayor on three separate occasions.

During the ensuing discussion, Members paid tribute to the outstanding contribution made by John to local government and to voluntary and charitable organisations in the Town, and the need to recognise this contribution in an appropriate way.

The Town Clerk drew attention to new powers available to town and parish councils to confer the title of Honorary Freeman to persons who have rendered eminent services to the local area, and explained the procedure by which such a title could be bestowed upon an identified individual.

#### **UNANIMOUSLY RECOMMENDED (NEM CON)**

- (1) that the matter be noted;
- (2) that, in accordance with S.249 of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended), John Cruddas be made an Honorary Freeman of the Town of Yeovil in recognition of his eminent services to the local area; and
- (3) that a special meeting of the Town Council be convened at 7.00pm on 6 July 2010 for the purpose of considering the admittance of John Cruddas to the Roll of Honorary Freemen of the Town of Yeovil.

### **7/253 PHOTOCOPIER**

The Committee considered the confidential report of the Town Clerk (Agenda item 13 refers).

#### **RESOLVED**

- (1) that the matter be noted; and

- (2) that approval be given to the recommendation set out in the above report.

7/254 **STAFFING ISSUES**

The Committee considered the confidential report of the Town Clerk (Agenda item 14 refers).

**RESOLVED**

- (1) that the matters be noted; and
- (2) that approval be given to the course of action set out in the confidential minute relating to this agenda item.

Chairman

26/05/10  
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