

## 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 18 November 2008**

(7.00pm to 9.15pm)

### **Present:**

Bridget Dollard (Chairman)  
Philip Chandler  
John Cruddas  
Tony Fife  
Pete Goodman  
Peter Gubbins  
John Hann  
Steve Hawker  
Andrew Kendall  
Tony Lock

### **Also Present:**

John Grana -South Ward Member  
Tom Parsley – South Ward Member  
Ian Budd – Town Centre Manager  
Jake Hannis – Senior Sports Development Officer SSDC  
Nigel Collins – Transport Strategy Officer SSDC  
John Perrett – Team Leader Public Transport SCC  
Chris Borland – South West Coaches  
Pat Avery – Stagecoach  
Alan Tawse – Town Clerk  
Sally Bing – Assistant Town Clerk

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Jacqui Cousins of West Community Association addressed the Committee explaining that she had approached the Town Council with a request to site a new litterbin in the Larkhill Road area of Town. She added that the situation needed to be improved, as only one litterbin existed in the community area.

### **7/122 MINUTES**

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 23 September 2008, copies of which had been circulated, were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

### **7/123 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Clive Davis, Dave Gooding, and Wes Read.

7/124 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Phil Chandler declared a personal interest in the Agenda item regarding Bus Shelters due to his employment with South West Coaches.

7/125 **CORRESPONDENCE**

There were no items of correspondence.

7/126 **BUS SHELTERS**

The Committee considered the report of the Assistant Town Clerk (agenda items 5 refers), and welcomed the guests invited from Somerset County Council, South Somerset District Council, and the bus companies.

Nigel Collins explained the need to budget for cleaning and maintenance of bus shelters following any new installations by the Town Council.

John Perrett (SCC) explained at that as part of the Local Transport Plan for Somerset and the introduction of Quality Bus Partnerships, routes into Yeovil would be reviewed within the next 18 months and it was anticipated the review would include route 81 (Preston Road) and 64/61 (West Coker Road).

Chris Borland (South West Coaches) explained that the main problem with bus shelters throughout Yeovil was maintenance following vandalism.

Concern was raised by Committee Members that road markings delineating bus stops on the highway were required adjacent to many existing bus stops and bus shelters. It was therefore requested that County Highways be asked to provide relevant road marking adjacent to the existing bus stops and shelters.

Discussion took place regarding the provision of bus shelters in Yeovil, and it was generally felt that consideration of the installation of new bus shelters should take place following the review by Somerset County Council.

In response to a query it was explained that the bus shelter in Kingston Yeovil, which had been removed following an accident, was in the ownership of an advertising company and the replacement subject to an insurance claim.

The Town Clerk explained that the Transport Improvements budget was available for use for repairs and maintenance of bus shelters installed and owned by the Town Council as and when required.

**RESOLVED**

- (1) that the matters be noted;
- (2) that County Highways be requested to provide road markings delineating bus stops adjacent to existing bus stops and bus shelters; and

- (3) that the Committee further consider the matter following the review by Somerset County Council as part of the Local Transport Plan.

#### **7/127 SPORTS DEVELOPMENT UPDATE**

The Committee considered the report of the Senior Development Officer (agenda item 6 refers). Jake Hannis summarised the report and highlighted to the Committee the positive outcome of the employment of a second coach within the Yeovil area. He stated that the work carried out by the District Council on sports development had made a fundamental difference to sports and sports development in the area, channelling clear pathways from school sports activities into sports clubs. He provided examples of sports clubs supported by the Town and District Councils and explained that the support had enabled successful funding applications from external funding sources. He concluded that sports development in Yeovil was in an excellent position leading up to the 2012 Olympic games.

The Committee was supportive of the work carried out by Jake and the sports development team and was particularly pleased with the success of the street soccer scheme. In answer to a query Jake explained why the future sports soccer projects had been identified for particular areas and stated that subject to funding it was hoped that street soccer could be extended to all the areas which previously benefited from the project, and that it would hopefully feature in South Somerset District Council's future Corporate Plan.

In answer to a query Jake explained that the funding requested towards sports development from the Town Council was a contribution to the officer post. He added that the work of the District Council's sport officers facilitated applications to external funding bodies including South Somerset Homes funding and also Front Line Councillor grants.

The Chairman thanked Jake and the Sports Development Team for their hard work and congratulated them on the successes to date, and Jake extended thanks to the Town Council for continued support.

#### **RESOLVED**

- (1) that the report and the achievements of the officers responsible for sports development in Area South be noted; and
- (2) that allocation of £2000 in the financial year 2009/2010 to support the future sport/physical activity development work undertaken in the Yeovil area be supported at this stage of the meeting and discussed further along with the other draft estimates later in the meeting.

#### **7/128 MILFORD HALL**

The Committee considered the report of the Community Development Officer (agenda item 7 refers) and the Town Clerk summarised the report and highlighted the options available. He explained that the £85,000 funding sought towards the project was subject to partnership funding and should the Capital funding from partners not be forthcoming by the end of March 2009 the opportunity to secure the £200,000 grant from SWRDA could be missed.

The Committee discussed the merits of the project and agreed it was important to develop this community facility. A suggestion was made that there was a potential for savings to be made by inviting South Somerset Homes contractors to undertake the construction work as part of a larger contract, in view of the fact that they would possibly be planning to carry out a housing redevelopment contract nearby and the Town Clerk undertook to investigate this possibility.

**RESOLVED:**

- (1) that the matter be noted; and
- (2) that a contribution of £85,000 towards the redevelopment of Milford Hall in financial year 2009/2010 be supported and referred to the Policy Resources and Finance Committee and full Council to explore the funding options.

7/129 **MONMOUTH HALL CHARGES**

The Committee considered the report of the Assistant Town Clerk (agenda item 8 refers)

**RESOLVED**

- (1) that the matter be noted
- (2) that the proposed increase in charges for the use of Monmouth Hall with effect from April 2009 be agreed.

7/130 **REQUEST FOR LITTER BINS AT LARKHILL**

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

**RESOLVED**

- (1) that the matter be noted;
- (2) that the installation of 1 Glasdon Futuro litter bin be agreed at the proposed location on Abbey Road; and
- (3) that ongoing commitment to the cost of emptying the bin be included in future budgets for the Committee.

7/131 **HIGHWAYS REPRESENTATION**

The Committee considered the report of the Town Clerk (agenda item 10 refers). Members were disappointed that despite the positive outcome of the Town Clerk's meeting with County Highways there was still no officer representation at the meeting.

With regards to dropped kerbs, Ian Budd, Town Centre Manager explained that he would like to be consulted on any identified locations which required dropped kerbs/crossings as he may be able to assist.

## **RESOLVED**

- (1) that the matters be noted.

### **7/132 ALCOHOL CONSUMPTION IN PUBLIC PLACES**

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

The Town Clerk explained to the Committee that the District Council had the power to make the order to prohibit alcohol consumption in specified places around the Town, where there had been proven incidents of anti-social behaviour associated with alcohol.

Ian Budd explained the requirements for the extension to the existing “no drinking” zones to a variety of other places in the Town centre. Ian further added that the funding provision required from the Town Council, as set out in the report, would be met by the Town Centre Partnership.

Discussion took place regarding the extensions to the existing prohibition of alcohol consumption in public places and additional areas were identified by the Committee. Ian Budd asked that Councillors forward details to him of any additional areas identified which they suggest should be included within the extension to enable him to consult with the Police and Community Safety Team.

## **RESOLVED**

- (1) that the matters be noted; and
- (2) that the Committee support the proposals of the Town Centre Manager and refer the matter to the Town Council along with any other areas identified by members and supported by the Police, recommending that a formal request be made to South Somerset District Council to consider the matter with a view to carrying out the relevant statutory consultation procedures and, if an order is approved, implementing the approved provisions.

### **7/133 REQUEST FOR USE OF COUNCIL CHAMBER**

The Committee considered the report of the Town Clerk (agenda item 12 refers).

## **RESOLVED**

- (1) that the matter be noted;
- (2) that the request for use of the Council Chamber to accommodate a child safe evening seminar on a convenient date in October 2009 be supported; and

- (3) that given the length of time for which the room is required, and the room preparation/clearing time, that a charge of £45 be made on this occasion.

#### 7/134 **COMMITTEE REVENUE ESTIMATES**

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

Discussion took place regarding the contribution to Yeovil Town Band and it was felt that due to budgetary constraints in the forthcoming year, the sponsorship should be reduced from £4000 to £3500. With regard to the budget allocation for CCTV, the Town Clerk explained that due to the costs of providing and maintaining the CCTV monitoring system in the Town centre, the District Council had requested a stepped increase to £30,000 per annum in 2010/2011. As a midway step, the Town Clerk explained that the contribution required by South Somerset District Council for CCTV provision in 2009/2010 was £26,750. This was an increase of £3280 from the original contribution recommended by the Finance Working Group.

#### **RESOLVED**

- (1) that the Budget Strategy drawn up by the Finance Working Group be noted and supported; and
- (2) that the Budget Strategy and Draft Estimates (amended copy attached) be supported and referred to the Policy Resources and Finance Committee for approval subject to the following alterations:
  - i. that the budget allocation for Yeovil Town Band be reduced from £4000 to £3500; and
  - ii. that a recommendation be made to Policy, Resources and Finance Committee to increase the budget allocation for CCTV in 2009/2010 from £23,470 to £26,750 for 2009/2010 and from £26,750 to £30,000 in 2010/2011, with a view to maintaining the level of provision at £30,000 per annum thereafter.

#### 7/135 **NOTES ON BUDGET ESTIMATES**

The Committee considered the report of the Assistant Town Clerk (agenda item 14 refers).

#### **RESOLVED**

that the notes on budget estimates be noted.

#### 7/136 **FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2008**

The Committee considered the report by the Finance Administrator (agenda item 15 refers).

#### **RESOLVED**

that the Financial Statement for August and September 2008 be noted.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mr Tucker of Marsh Lane requested clarification of funding of the proposed Milford Hall redevelopment and the Town Clerk responded.

### **7/137 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.

### **7/138 TOWN HOUSE**

The Committee considered the confidential report of the Town Clerk (agenda item 16 refers).

#### **RESOLVED**

- (1) that the matter be noted
- (2) that the Committee support acceptance of the lowest tender as set out in the Town Clerk's report; and
- (3) that the costs involved be met from contingencies and the Emergency Procedure be used to enable the works to begin at an early date.

SB/AB  
24/11/08

