

YEOVIL TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting of **YEOVIL TOWN COUNCIL** held in the Council Chamber, Town House, 19 Union Street, Yeovil on **Tuesday 3 November 2009**

(7.30pm to 9.00pm)

Present:

Wes Read – Mayor	Peter Gubbins
Philip Chandler	John Hann
John Cruddas	Steve Hawker
Clive Davis	Andrew Kendall
Bridget Dollard	Tony Lock
Julian Freke	Ian Martin
Pete Goodman	Pat Martin
Dave Greene	

Also Present:

Alan Tawse	Town Clerk
Tony Bloxham	Principal of Preston Community School

PRAYERS

Reverend Howard Davenport led the Council in prayers on behalf of the Townspeople of Yeovil.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no comments from members of the public.

7/390 **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the previous meeting held on 6 October 2009, copies of which had been circulated, were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

7/391 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Tony Fife, Dave Gooding, Ruth Kendall, Tom Parsley, David Recardo and Alan Smith.

7/392 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Bridget Dollard declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Agenda item 6 (Preston School - Development of Sports Facilities) by virtue of her employment at the School.

John Cruddas declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Agenda item 10 (Former Goldcroft Allotment Site) by virtue of his association with one or more of the bidders.

7/393 **MAYOR AND DEPUTY MAYOR'S RECENT AND FORTHCOMING ENGAGEMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Details of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor's recent and forthcoming engagements and announcements were attached to the Agenda.

7/394 **CORRESPONDENCE**

The Town Clerk reported receipt of the following items of correspondence:-

- Invitation from South Somerset District Council for representatives to attend further Flood Awareness Workshops in December 2009/January 2010 (to be included on next Town Council agenda)
- South Somerset Voluntary and Community Action Newsletter – September 2009
- "Federation News" - Yeovil Federation Director's Report – October 2009
- Somerset Playing Fields Association Newsletter – Autumn 2009
- "Heritage Matters" - Historic Building Owners' Newsletter – Autumn 2009

7/395 **PRESTON SCHOOL – DEVELOPMENT OF SPORTS FACILITIES**

(Bridget Dollard, having declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the following item, left the meeting during its consideration and took no part in the discussion and voting thereon).

Tony Bloxham, Principal of Preston Community School, gave a presentation on proposals for the development of sports facilities at the School for the benefit of pupils and the local community.

A copy of a report recently produced by Knight, Kavanagh and Page (KPP) to deliver a "blueprint" for the initiative was attached to the Agenda, and a summary of the points covered during the presentation was circulated at the meeting and is attached as an appendix to these minutes).

Tony drew attention to the amount of open space and playing fields within the School grounds and the opportunity which this presented to develop enhanced sports and recreation facilities for use by the School and by the wider community.

He explained that £500,000 had already been secured via the Somerset Leisure Trust and from the School's own resources, towards the estimated £700,000 costs of Phase One. He added that Phase Two, which would be formally costed when Phase One was complete, was likely to cost in the region of £500,000.

During the ensuing discussion, Members expressed the need for the School to liaise closely with South Somerset District Council and other stakeholders who were involved in the development of the Yeovil Vision Sports Zone project – to ensure that any new facilities did not duplicate planned provision.

In response, Tony indicated that he had already met with representatives of the District Council to discuss the School's proposals, which it was felt would complement the Sports Zone project.

Reference was also made to the pressure on local authority budgets, and the likelihood of greater pressure in years to come.

The Mayor thanked Tony for his interesting and informative presentation, and it was

RESOLVED

that the matter be noted.

7/396 CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR OFFICE OPENING ARRANGEMENTS

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

RESOLVED

that the Town Council Offices be closed on Thursday 31 December 2009, and that day be regarded as a statutory leave day for staff holiday purposes.

7/397 REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COMMITTEES AND OTHER MEETINGS

The Chairmen of the various Committees of the Council presented the Minutes from the previous cycle of meetings, drawing attention to specific references to Council, any matters of particular interest and answering any questions.

Planning and Licensing Committee

28 September 2009
12 October 2009

7/398 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

The Minutes of the following meetings of Outside Bodies were attached to the Agenda and Members were given an opportunity to raise matters relating to them:

Yeovil Youth Council

21 September 2009

Yeovil Town Centre Consultative Panel

23 September 2009

Minute 6 - Highway Obstructions

The Town Clerk was requested to contact the Town Centre Manager to establish when the new leaflets highlighting the location of retailers and facilities in the Town Centre were likely to be produced and circulated.

Yeovil Crematorium and Cemetery Committee

14 October 2009

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no comments from members of the public.

7/399 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.

7/400 FORMER GOLDCROFT ALLOTMENT SITE

(John Cruddas, having declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the following item, left the meeting during its consideration and took no part in the discussion and voting thereon).

Council considered the confidential report of the Town Clerk (agenda item 10 refers).

Copies of recently circulated correspondence with the bidders regarding their financial status were distributed at the meeting.

Members considered the merits of the further information received in respect of the bids received, and the options available to the Town Council regarding the disposal of the land.

RESOLVED

- (1) that the further developments to date be noted; and
- (2) 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.

(Ian Martin and Pat Martin requested that their vote against the passing of Resolution (2) be recorded).

Mayor

AT
05/11/09

Presentation to Yeovil Town Council
Tuesday 3rd November 2009

Supporting document

“A Blueprint for the Development of Sports Facilities at Preston School – Yeovil. (Knight, Kavanagh and Page, Sept 2009)

Executive Summary

This paper sets out a proposal for the development of sports facilities at Preston school which is in two phases. It outlines the context, rationale and plans in outline form. Initial costings have been completed (£700,000) with significant progress having been made to fund these proposals (£500,000).

Context and Consultation

Preston School has signed up to be a member of the Somerset Leisure Trust which is the management vehicle through which the county council operates a network of dual use leisure centers. Preston School has a dual use centre on site. The governors of Preston School agreed to membership of the Leisure Trust recognising the following:-

- The increasing and future pressure on central revenue and capital budgets
- the need to secure, sustain and improve access to community leisure facilities within Preston School local community
- the need to secure new capital investment to maintain and upgrade existing facilities to support and enhance PE curriculum delivery and extra curricular activity for 5-19 year olds

On the 26th June a consultation workshop took place – assessing seven scenarios to develop the school and community provision at Preston School.

Rationale

School

- Preston School Asset Management Plan identifies a lack of large indoor space.
 - School floor area 6535 square meters against DCSF guidance of 7220 square meters square meters
 - School has access to 61,022 of team game playing field against DCSF minimum of 45,000 square meters.
- School Curriculum – necessary for core entitlement, BTEC Sport
- Healthy School Plus
- Every Child Matters
- Extended School Provision

Community

- Current provision is limited by lack of changing facilities and indoor space.
- Preston School has significant outdoor playing space which is not utilised by the community during the weekend.

- There is the need for capital investment in both changing and indoor facilities in order to diversify the community offer and create a sustainable model for provision for the future.

Proposal – Phased development

Phase 1 - Retain:

- ◀ 4-badminton court sports hall (including two changing rooms, office and storage)
- ◀ Reception area
- ◀ Three floodlit, fenced tennis courts
- ◀ Single fenced tennis court

Develop:

- ◀ TISA on site of two fenced tennis courts, converted (with a partition wall) to include a 30 station fitness room (i.e.150m²) and two or three tennis courts.
- ◀ 2 team changing room

Phase 2 - Develop:

- ◀ 4 team changing room
- ◀ Multi –Use Games Area (MUGA)

Finance

Phase 1 of the projects will cost approximately £700,000 (please note that we feel the initial estimate in the blueprint is excessive)

Through the Somerset Leisure Trust and advancement of Preston School's Capital Grant the project has a commitment of in excess of £500,000

Phase 2 will be costed when phase one has been completed but is likely to be in the region of £500,000.

Summary and concluding thoughts

This proposal seeks the support of the Yeovil Town Council in order to improve the sports and recreation provision at Preston School and for its immediate community. It also seeks to make better use of the outdoor facilities that the school is fortunate to have.

This proposal recognizes that in the future for people to make the most of the opportunities within the “Yeovil Vision” and in particular “Sports Zone”, they will need to have developed the attitudes habits and beliefs necessary at a young age in order to “buy in” to these opportunities.

This proposal seeks financial support from the Town Council in order to help make Phase 1 of this proposal a reality.

Tony Bloxham 20th October 2009