

## YEOVIL TOWN COUNCIL

**MINUTES** of the meeting of **YEOVIL TOWN COUNCIL** held in the Council Chamber, Town House, 19 Union Street, Yeovil on **Tuesday 6 October 2009**

(7.30pm to 10.30pm)

### **Present:**

Wes Read – Mayor	Andrew Kendall
Philip Chandler	Ruth Kendall
J Vincent Chainey	Tony Lock
John Cruddas	Ian Martin
Julian Freke	Pat Martin
Dave Gooding	Tom Parsley
Dave Greene	David Recardo
John Hann	Alan Smith
Steve Hawker	

### **Also Present:**

Alan Tawse	Town Clerk
Sam Healey	Chief Executive – SSVCA

### **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.

### **GRANT PRESENTATIONS**

The Mayor presented grant cheques to representatives of the following organisations for the purposes indicated:

<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Purpose</b>
Oddments Theatre Company	£350	Towards costs of purchasing a projector and screen
Somerset Area Cruse Bereavement Care	£750	Towards annual running costs

### **AWARD PRESENTATIONS**

The Mayor presented a number of awards to various individuals and representatives of organisations who had been successful in the following competitions but had been unable to attend the original presentation events:

- Best Kept Allotment Competition
- Yeovil in Bloom
- South West in Bloom

7/378 **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the previous meeting held on 1 September 2009, copies of which had been circulated, were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

7/379 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Clive Davis, Bridget Dollard, Tony Fife, Pete Goodman and Peter Gubbins.

7/380 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

John Cruddas declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Agenda item 11 (Former Goldcroft Allotment Site) by virtue of his association with one or more of the bidders.

7/381 **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.

The Mayor drew attention to a forthcoming fundraising event for his chosen charities.

The Mayor also extended a welcome to Thomas Sankey – Vice-Chairman of Yeovil Youth Council who was attending his first meeting of the Town Council.

7/382 **CORRESPONDENCE**

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

- Letter of thanks from the Chairman of South West in Bloom for the Town Council's help in organising their 2009 presentation event, which took place in Yeovil
- Invitation from South Somerset District of the Campaign to Protect Rural England to attend their forthcoming Annual General Meeting on 29 October
- Invitation from South Somerset Disability Forum to their forthcoming coffee morning on 21 October
- South Somerset Disability Forum – News and Views – Summer 2009
- Somerset Playing Fields Association Newsletter – Summer 2009
- Tree News – August/Winter 2009

7/383 **SOUTH SOMERSET ASSOCIATION FOR VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY ACTION**

Sam Healey - Chief Executive of the South Somerset Association for Voluntary and Community Action (SSVCA) gave a presentation on the aims and objectives of the Association, its current activities and its plans for the future. (A summary of the main points covered by Sam during her presentation is attached to these minutes).

Sam explained how the Association supported the local community and gave examples of various initiatives that provided practical assistance – including the Furnicare and Community Transport schemes.

She also outlined how the organisation supported individual volunteers and voluntary organisations and drew attention to the Funding Advice Project, which it was hoped would generate external funding of £450,000 for groups in the Yeovil and surrounding area.

During the ensuing discussion, Members expressed their support for the important work carried out by the SSVCA and sought clarification on a variety of issues.

In response to a query, Sam indicated that the Association provided mono photocopying facilities for local groups at competitive rates. She added that the organisation was looking to develop a new software package to enable residents across the District to view online images of furniture available through the Furnicare initiative.

The Mayor thanked Sam for her interesting and informative presentation, and it was

## **RESOLVED**

that the matter be noted.

### **7/384 YEOVIL – PROMOTIONAL FILM**

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

Members viewed a short film of the Town, which featured a variety of aspects of the Yeovil in Bloom initiative. The film, which had been commissioned locally and sponsored by AgustaWestland plc, had been screened at the previous month's South West in Bloom presentation event and had been well received by all those in attendance.

The Chairman of the Promotions and Activities Committee expressed his gratitude to Agustawestland plc for their generous support in funding the production of the film. He added that the South West in Bloom Committee were pleased with the film, which they felt epitomised the "in bloom" concept. They were keen to use the film as a shining example of how to engage with local businesses and local communities to promote and deliver the objectives of Britain in Bloom.

Members were advised that the Town Centre Manager felt that a number of organisations and stakeholders in the Town would be interested in helping to sponsor a new version of the film, to promote other facilities and attractions that the Town had to offer, and Council was asked to consider supporting further discussions with interested parties on a without prejudice basis.

He added that he was also looking at the possibility of producing a web version of the original film for the Town Council's website, which would enable the film to be viewed by a much greater audience. The Town Clerk added that

he had discussed the copyright issue with AgustaWestland plc who had no objection to this idea.

During the ensuing discussion, Members congratulated the makers of the film for their excellent production, and they thanked the Chairman of the Promotions and Activities Committee for his contribution towards its production. They also extended their thanks to AgustaWestland plc for their generous sponsorship.

## **RESOLVED**

- (1) that the matter be noted;
- (2) that the Town Council's congratulations on the quality of the film be recorded;
- (3) that approval be given to further discussions taking place with interested parties, on a without prejudice basis, to establish the level of demand for producing a separate version of the film with greater emphasis on other facilities and attractions in the Town, and the outcome of those discussions – including estimated production, manufacturing and distribution costs and details of pledged contributions – be reported to the Promotions and Activities Committee and then onto Town Council;
- (4) that, assuming the extended project went ahead, consideration also be given at that time to the most appropriate project delivery vehicle; and
- (5) that assuming a web version of the original film can be produced at minimal cost to the Town Council, arrangements be made by the Town Clerk for the film to be incorporated onto the Town Council's website.

## **7/385 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**

2 and 14 September 2009

### **Grounds and General Maintenance Committee**

7 September 2009

#### **Minute 7/181 - Yew Tree Park Refurbishment Update**

In response to a query, the Chairman of the Grounds and General Maintenance Committee confirmed that arrangements had been made for the Town Council to be consulted on the tenders received prior to acceptance, and that, to minimise any delay in proceeding with the Project, the Town Clerk

in consultation with the Chairman of that Committee and the Chairman of the Policy, Resources and Finance Committee had been authorised to liaise with the District Council regarding the tender acceptance process.

He added that the project was scheduled to be completed before the end of 2009.

Reference was made to the fencing of the upgraded play area, and Council's attention was drawn to Minute 7/148 of the Grounds and General Maintenance Committee when the design specification had been discussed and agreed following its consideration by the Steering Group.

### **RESOLVED**

- (1) that the matter be noted; and
- (2) that the Steering Group be requested to reconsider the proposed fencing arrangements.

### **Promotions and Activities Committee**

15 September 2009

### **Buildings and Civic Matters Committee**

22 September 2009

### **Policy, Resources and Finance Committee**

29 September 2009

## **7/386 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 Twinning Association**

9 July 2009

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There were no comments from members of the public.

## **7/387 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.

## 7/388 **FORMER YEOVIL SKI AND ACTIVITY CENTRE**

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

The Town Clerk distributed a copy of recently circulated correspondence with the Yeovil Community Church along with advice recently received from the Council's Property Agent on the valuation of the property. He also advised the Council of representations that he had received from Members unable to be present at the meeting.

He then gave a brief presentation on the developments since the last meeting, outlined the comments of the Council's Property Agent on the latest response from the Church and drew attention to suggested matters that the Town Council needed to consider to progress the proposed disposal.

Members further considered the merits of the bid put forward by the Church for the redevelopment of the former Yeovil Ski and Activity Centre as a creative arts centre having regard to the matters set out in the correspondence.

### **RESOLVED:**

- (1) that further consideration be given to all of the financial aspects of the bid (including the expansion land at Site B) at a future meeting having due regard to the advice of the District Valuer, the District Auditor, and the Council's Solicitor;
- (2) that the following Members be appointed to form a committee to oversee further discussions with representatives of the Church on the proposals, and the Town Clerk, the Council's Property Agent and the Council's Solicitor be authorised to undertake negotiations on behalf of the Town Council in consultation with the committee:
  - Mayor
  - Chairman of Policy, Resources and Finance Committee
  - Vice-Chairman of Policy, Resources and Finance Committee
  - Peter Gubbins
  - Tom Parsley
- (3) that the outcome of the discussions be reported to a future meeting of the Town Council.

## 7/389 **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 11 refers).

Copies of recently circulated correspondence with the bidders were distributed at the meeting along with the views of the Council's Property Agent on the matter.

Members considered the merits of the bids received.

**RESOLVED**

- (1) that the further developments to date be noted; and
- (2) that discussions continue with all interested parties, and that the financial status of the bidders involved in relation to the delivery of their respective proposals be ascertained and reported to the November meeting of the Town Council.

Mayor

AT  
12/10/09



# **South Somerset Association for Voluntary & Community Action Ltd**

“Supporting the Community within  
South Somerset”

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## Aims of the organisation

South Somerset Association for Voluntary and Community Action Ltd (SSVCA) exists to provide services, support and advice for the voluntary sector and to people who are in need within South Somerset and the surrounding area.



# BACKGROUND OF ORGANISATION

- Launched under charity name of Yeovil & District CVS in 1981.
- One of over 350 CVS type organisations in the UK offering support services to voluntary and community organisations.
- Member of National Association for Voluntary & Community Action.
- Changed name to South Somerset Association for Voluntary & Community Action Ltd in 2007 when we became a Company Ltd by guarantee with charity status.
- Turnover of over £1m.
- Employ over 75 members of staff across 8 projects.



# SUPPORTING THE COMMUNITY

- Furnicare
- Community Transport
- Community Cars
- South Somerset Links
- Talking Computers
- IT Re-cycling & Technical Support



# Furnicare

## Main aim of the project

To reduce tonnage of household waste taken to Landfill and provide good quality, low cost donated furniture to people on a low income.

- Warehouses in Yeovil and Chard, covering South Somerset, West Dorset and East Devon.
- 15,000 household items collected each year.
- 300 tonnes of unwanted furniture saved from landfill each year.
- Introduction of Tax Credits, Gift Aid, Collection Donations and Membership scheme has increased income by approx. £30,000 per annum, ensuring the financial sustainability of the project.
- Hoping to launch project in Wincanton.



# Community Transport

## Main aim of the project

To provide transport to people in South Somerset who are over 60 and or disabled who are unable to access mainstream services.

- 11 mini buses operating under Section 19 of the Transport Act.
- Clients include Education, Social Services, Individuals & groups.
- Over 59,000 passenger journeys each year.
- 250,000 miles per year.
- Turnover £300k per year, of which we receive £4k funding from SCC. Fare scheme is based on full cost recovery and is now financially sustainable.
- 100 local organisations served each year.
- Delivering the Slinky contract on behalf of SCC in in Chard & Ilminster area.



# Community Car Scheme

## **Main aim of the project**

Provides transport via volunteer drivers using their own cars to people who are unable to access main stream services.

- 60 volunteers registered all using their own cars.
- Over 17,000 passenger journeys each year.
- 95% of work is for primary & secondary health care appointments.
- Will always be grant reliant due to legal implications.
- VAT registered due to government legislation.



# South Somerset Links

## **Main aim of the project**

Provides transport to people who live in the Somerton and Langport area who are unable to access main stream services due to mobility issues and/or rural location.

- Complementary service to Yeovil
- Mixture of paid and volunteer drivers
- Over 8,000 passenger journeys each year.
- Over 57,000 miles travelled in last year.
- 3 year SLA with Area North.



# Talking Computers

## Main aims of the project

To assist people with visual or physical disability or dyslexia to become more confident in using computers.

- Lottery grant of £250k
- Project will run from Aug 2007 to July 2010
- Referrals from Social Services, Job Centre Plus, Dyslexia Association, Disability Forum, Somerset Sight and self referrals.
- Recruited over 100 learners to date.
- Provide learners with technical support and appropriate software within their own homes.
- Set up a learning centre in conjunction with Somerset Sight in Taunton.



# Computer Recycling

## Main aims of the project

To refurbish donated pcs and sell at a reduced cost, to either people on a low income or voluntary organisations.

- Provides pcs with relevant licence and software.
- Provides technical support to Talking Computers and other projects.
- Over 300 donated pcs sold in last year.
- Saving 12 tonnes from going to landfill.



# Supporting the Voluntary Sector

- Volunteer Centre
- Core Services
- Funding Advice Project
- Improving Reach Project
- BASIS Project
- Partnership Working



# Volunteer Centre – South Somerset

## Main aims of project

To provide support for individual volunteers and volunteer involving organisations in South Somerset. The six core functions are:

- Brokerage
  - Marketing Volunteering
  - Good Practice Development
  - Develop Volunteering opportunities
  - Policy Response and campaigning
  - Strategic Development of Volunteering
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- 355 **New** Volunteers registered between April 08 and March 09.
  - 162 Organisations registered
  - 242 Volunteer placements registered.
  - Achieved Volunteering England Quality Accreditation Mark (highest mark)
  - Increased volunteer registration by 50% in the last year
  - Secured free advertising within Western Gazette



# Core Services of a CVS (VCA)

## 5 Core Functions

- **Services and support**

CVS promote the effectiveness of local voluntary and community groups by providing them with a range of services. These may include access to basic facilities, such as meeting rooms, photocopiers and ICT equipment or more involved services such as community accountancy and employment advice. CVS also support local groups through regular newsletters, training, funding advice and specialist services.
- **Liaison**

As a focal point for the local voluntary and community sector, CVS encourage networking between individuals and groups within the sector, and between local groups and the statutory and private sectors. This allows local groups to learn from one another, establish contacts and work more effectively. CVS also help different communities to organise their own networking activity.
- **Representation**

With government encouraging involvement of voluntary and community groups in shaping and delivering services, CVS enable the views of local groups to be represented. For example, many CVS run voluntary and community sector forums which provide an opportunity for local groups to put forward their views on national and local policies.
- **Development work**

Over the years, the local voluntary and community sector has pioneered some of the essential public services that we now take for granted. Child protection and care for the elderly, for example, had their origins in, and were developed by, the voluntary sector. This tradition has continued into the 21st century, and today CVS take the lead in identifying gaps in service provision and work with groups to develop new and innovative services to meet these needs.
- **Strategic partnerships**

CVS work in partnership with local government and other statutory agencies to shape the delivery of services. CVS play a key role in empowering local groups to take part in partnerships and are directly involved in a wide range of regeneration, neighbourhood renewal, health and social care, learning and other government initiatives. Strategic partnerships may be sub-regional, district wide or neighbourhood. They may cover several issues or have a particular focus.



## Core Services

- Newsletter – 3 times a year.
- VCS Forum – 3 times a year.
- Strategic sub group.
- One to one support for new and ongoing groups, including setting up, policy, financial, governance and constitutional advice.
- Signposting to specialist support.
- Representation on statutory bodies such as LSP, SSP, Yeovil Vision, CDN etc.
- Campaigning on behalf of the sector.
- Sit on various funding panels.



## Funding Advice Project

- £12k funding from SSDC Area South for 9 month project.
- 38 groups received one to one funding advice.
- 29 groups received advice through the funding workshop.
- 11 groups have been successful in receiving funding, generating £45k funding received back into Area South. 1 Group has received an interest free loan of £100k to develop their services.
- A further 11 applications have been made with a potential £450k of funding coming into Area South.
- It is hoped we can roll this project out to other areas.



# Improving Reach Project

- Over £350k over 3 year project across the whole of Somerset.
- Launched the Alliance of CVS' in Somerset
- Provide an equitable service to all VCS groups in Somerset.
- Carried out a needs analysis of all groups in South Somerset.
- Findings will enable us to drive organisation forward in the next 3 years.
- Launch website with online support to VCS.
- Volunteer of the Year Awards



## New BASIS Project

- 2 year Lottery funded project
- Development Worker – 21 hours a week in each district.
- Carry out Health Check of VCS group
- Provide pool of services to meet identified need of vcs groups within Somerset, including:  
Financial Advice, Funding Advice, Business Planning, Volunteer Advice, Governance structures, setting up advice etc.



# Working in Partnership

- Represent and provide a voice for the Voluntary & Community Sector (VCS) on the LSP.
- Facilitate the VCS Forums and Strategic sub group to keep the sector up to date on strategic policy and create a 2 way communication path.
- Consult with the VCS on strategic policy such as Sustainable Community Strategy, Local Area Agreements & the Compact.
- Advice statutory bodies on issues affecting the sector.
- Campaign on behalf of the sector.
- Provide data on VCS activity.
- Represent the LSP and VSC on the SSP Stronger Communities Sub Group.



## The Future 2010-2013

- Amalgamate our Community Transport and Community Cars projects to deliver a more streamlined service and provide greater choice for our customers.
- Launch Furnicare in Wincanton area.
- Continue to strengthen the SACVS Partnership
- Achieve PQASSO Quality Mark Level 2
- Continue to act as a voice for the Voluntary Sector and campaign on its behalf on a local, regional and national level.
- Work in partnership with the LSP to deliver actions in the SS Sustainable Community Strategy
  - Database of VCS organisations
  - Employer Supported Volunteering
  - Create a voluntary sector hub “One stop shop” for VCS and community enquiries.**



## Contact Details

South Somerset Voluntary & Community Action  
Unit 5, Yeovil Small Business Centre  
Houndstone Business Park  
Memorial Road  
Yeovil  
Somerset  
BA22 8WA.

Tel 01935 475914  
Email: [samhealy@ssvca.org.uk](mailto:samhealy@ssvca.org.uk)