

## **YEOVIL TOWN COUNCIL**

**MINUTES** of the meeting of **YEOVIL TOWN COUNCIL** held in the Council Chamber, Town House, 19 Union Street, Yeovil on **Tuesday 7 October 2008**

(7.30pm to 10.05pm)

### **Present:**

Wes Read – Mayor	John Hann
J Vincent Chainey	Steve Hawker
John Cruddas	Simon Hester
Bridget Dollard	Andrew Kendall
Tony Fife	Ruth Kendall
Julian Freke	Tony Lock
Dave Gooding	Ian Martin
Pete Goodman	Pat Martin
John Grana	Tom Parsley
Dave Greene	David Recardo
Peter Gubbins	

### **Also present:**

Alan Tawse	Town Clerk
Liz Pardoe	Project Worker – Yeovil Foyer

### **PRAYERS**

Reverend James Dudley-Smith led the Council in prayers on behalf of the Townspeople of Yeovil.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There were no comments from members of the public.

#### **7/216 MINUTES**

The Minutes of the previous meeting held on 2 September 2008, copies of which had been circulated, were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

#### **7/217 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Philip Chandler, Clive Davis and Alan Smith.

#### **7/218 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

J Vincent Chainey, Tony Fife, Julian Freke, Dave Greene, Peter Gubbins, John Hann, Andrew Kendall, Ruth Kendall, Tony Lock, Ian Martin, Pat Martin, Tom Parsley and David Recardo all declared a personal interest in Agenda item 9 (Pioneer Somerset) by virtue of their membership of South Somerset

District Council and, in the case of Dave Greene and Peter Gubbins, their additional membership of Somerset County Council.

All Members declared a personal interest in Agenda item 14 (Reports and Recommendations from Committees - Policy, Resources and Finance Committee - Members' Allowances) in view of their membership of the Town Council. It was noted that in accordance with Paragraph 10(2)(c)(iv) of the adopted Code of Conduct, this interest did not constitute a prejudicial interest.

7/219 **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 the recent achievement of a gold award by Yeovil Town in the Annual South West in Bloom Competition, and extended his congratulations to everyone involved.

He also referred to a Charity Swimathon fundraising event that he had organised the previous weekend, on behalf of his nominated charities, which was expected to raise around £2,000.

7/220 **CORRESPONDENCE**

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

- Letters of thanks from Gryphon West Gym Club and Yeovil Sports and Social Club regarding their recent grant awards
- Yeovil Country Park Management Plan – 2008/12
- South Somerset Voluntary and Community Action Newsletter – September 2008
- Somerset's Community Safety Newsletter – Autumn 2008
- Tree News – Autumn/Winter 2008/09
- Wessex Water's Magazine – Autumn/Winter 2008/09

7/221 **YEOVIL FOYER**

The Mayor extended a welcome to Liz Pardoe – Project Worker at the Yeovil Foyer who gave a presentation on the work being carried out at the Foyer and its plans for the future.

The presentation included a short film made by young people at the Foyer on the perception of alcohol related crime in Yeovil Town Centre.

Liz also outlined the aims and objectives of the initiative and gave examples of the training opportunities provided by the facility for young people.

During the ensuing discussion, reference was made to the benefits of organisations providing support to homeless people working closer together to help tackle the problem in a co-ordinated manner.

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

**RESOLVED**

that the matter be noted.

**7/222 REGIONAL SPATIAL STRATEGY FOR THE SOUTH WEST**

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

During the ensuing discussion, reference was made to the outcome of the recent meeting of the District Council's District Executive on the matter, which had resulted in a number of key amendments to the commentary set out in the report.

In light of these changes, it was proposed that the formulation of the Town Council's response be deferred until further details were obtained.

Reference was also made to the importance of securing acceptable levels of housing density in calculating future dwelling provision.

**RESOLVED**

- (1) that the matter be noted; and
- (2) that the preparation of a response by the Town Council be deferred and delegated to the Planning and Licensing Committee and, in the meantime, details of the above-mentioned amendments be circulated to all Members of that Committee.

**7/223 ALLOTMENT MAINTENANCE**

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

Members were advised of the further views of the Policy, Resources and Finance Committee on the matter, which had concurred with the recommendations of the Grounds and General Maintenance Committee subject to the District Council being given the opportunity to purchase the existing equipment.

**RESOLVED**

- (1) that the further advice of the Health and Safety Officer and the further views of the Grounds and General Maintenance Committee and the Policy, Resources and Finance Committee on this matter be noted;
- (2) that, as a matter of policy, all allotment maintenance work to areas within allotment sites that do not form the plots let to tenants involving the use of machinery be undertaken to a satisfactory standard by suitably qualified and experienced contractors only, and the Town Clerk be requested to explore the options available with a view to putting the necessary additional maintenance arrangements into effect; and

- (3) that the Town Clerk seek early expressions of interest from South Somerset District Council for the disposal of the existing equipment at best consideration.

**7/224 PIONEER SOMERSET**

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

**RESOLVED**

- (1) that the matter be noted;
- (2) that a Working Group comprising the following Members be appointed to give initial consideration to the preparation of a response to the survey – with a view to submitting their views to the November meeting of the Policy, Resources and Finance Committee:

Philip Chandler	(Yeovil East Ward)
Bridget Dollard	(Yeovil South Ward)
Steve Hawker	(Yeovil Central Ward)
Wes Read	(Yeovil West Ward)

- (3) that the recommendations of the Policy, Resources and Finance Committee on this matter be referred to the December meeting of the Town Council, at which a formal response to the survey be considered and adopted.

**7/225 EMPOWERING AND ENGAGING CITIZENS ROADSHOWS**

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

**RESOLVED**

- (1) that the matter be noted; and
- (2) that Tom Parsley be appointed to attend the Roadshow to be held in Bristol on 4 December 2008, along with the Town Clerk.

**7/226 FLOOD AWARENESS WORKSHOPS/PRESENTATIONS**

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

**RESOLVED**

- (1) that the matter be noted;
- (2) that the following Members be appointed to represent the Town Council at one of the forthcoming Flood Awareness Workshops/Presentations:

Philip Chandler  
Bridget Dollard  
Wes Read

David Recardo

- (3) that the Council Chamber in the Town House be offered as a potential venue for one of the events; and
- (4) that, given the existing provision of facilities in the Yeovil area, no action be taken regarding the establishment of a local sandbag store.

**7/227 COUNCIL QUESTION TIME**

Council considered the report of the Town Clerk (Agenda item 12 refers).

**RESOLVED**

that the matter be noted.

**7/228 CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR OFFICE OPENING ARRANGEMENTS**

Council considered the report of the Town Clerk (Agenda item 13 refers).

**RESOLVED**

that the Town Council Office be closed on Friday 2 January 2009, and that day be regarded as a statutory leave day for staff holiday purposes.

**7/229 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**

1 September 2008  
15 September 2008

**Grounds and General Maintenance Committee**

8 September 2008

**7/112 Yew Tree Park Play Area**

In response to a query, the Town Clerk reiterated the developments that had taken place since the decision to invite an external contractor to design the upgrade of the above play area. Owing to reasons beyond the Town and District Councils' control, it had been necessary to withdraw this invitation as the contractor had subsequently expressed his unwillingness to meet the tender specification at the original price quoted.

He added that the District Council's Play and Youth Facilities Team, which had now been appointed to undertake this work, were currently working on proposed designs and that these would shortly be presented to the Steering Group that was overseeing the delivery of the project. Despite this setback, the project was still expected to be completed in line with the agreed timetable.

Members were advised that an update report would be submitted to the next meeting of the Grounds and General Maintenance Committee.

**RESOLVED**

that the matter be noted.

**Promotions and Activities Committee**

16 September 2008

**Buildings and Civic Matters Committee**

23 September 2008

7/119 Driver Awareness Courses

The Chairman expressed her disappointment at the level of attendance at a recent driver awareness course relating to the A37, which she and others who had attended found interesting and informative.

**RESOLVED**

that the matter be noted.

**Policy, Resources and Finance Committee**

30 September 2008

7/121 Members' Allowances

Council considered the recommendations of the Policy, Resources and Finance Committee on this matter.

**RESOLVED**

- (1) that the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel be noted;
- (2) that the level of the current Parish Basic Allowance be increased by the recommended amount of £205 per annum (£3.94 per week) for each Member with effect from 1 April 2008;
- (3) that the anticipated overall additional costs of £3,000 in 2008/09 be met from Contingencies, and additional provision be made in

the Costs of Democracy budget to meet these costs in future years;

- (4) that, the level of travelling and subsistence allowances be set at the recommended rates, subject to the mileage allowance for motor cars being fixed at £0.40 per mile irrespective of engine size;
- (5) that the present arrangements whereby these particular allowances may only be claimed in respect of approved duties undertaken *outside* the parish of Yeovil Town (with the exception of parking fees) be continued; and
- (6) that provision be made for an annual uplift of the Parish Basic Allowance paid to Members of the Town Council by the same percentage as the equivalent negotiated APT&C pay award for officers.

#### 7/230 **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**

11 September 2008

##### **Yeovil Youth Council**

22 September 2008

#### 7/231 **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

In response to a query by Mr Tucker of Marsh Lane, the Town Clerk indicated that he had requested that a costed report on the future development of Milford Hall be submitted to the November cycle of meetings.

#### 7/232 **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.

#### 7/233 **FORMER GOLDCROFT ALLOTMENT SITE**

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

The Town Clerk gave a brief presentation drawing attention to recent developments that had taken place concerning the proposed disposal of the above land. He explained the options available to the Town Council and gave an update on the outstanding issues referred to in his report.

During the ensuing discussion, Members gave detailed consideration to the merits of each of the options available in light of the bids received, the financial commitments of the Town Council, the current property market and the potential future use of the land.

**RESOLVED**

- (1) that the recent developments in this matter be noted; and
- (2) that approval be given to the acceptance of the highest bid received for the disposal of the above site.

Mayor

AT  
17/10/2008