



Yeovil Town Council

**Town House
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The Meeting... **Buildings and Civic Matters Committee**

The Time... **7.00pm**

The Date... **Tuesday 22 September 2009**

The Place... **Town House, 19 Union Street, Yeovil**

If you need this information in large print, Braille, audio or another language, please ring 01935 382424



Alan Tawse

Alan Tawse
Town Clerk

16 September 2009

Buildings and Civic Matters Committee

Please contact Sarah Hunt at the Town House for more information about this meeting

To: All Members of the Buildings and Civic Matters
Committee

J Vincent Chainey

Philip Chandler (Ex-officio)

John Cruddas

Clive Davis

Bridget Dollard (Chairman)

Tony Fife

Dave Gooding

Pete Goodman

Peter Gubbins

John Hann

Steve Hawker (Vice-Chairman)

Andrew Kendall

Tony Lock

Wes Read (Ex-officio)

A G E N D A

PUBLIC COMMENT (15 minutes)

1. **MINUTES**

To confirm as a correct record the Minutes of the previous meeting held on 21 July 2009.

2. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

4. **CORRESPONDENCE**

5. **RAILINGS/BOLLARD AT ENTRANCE TO SILVER STREET**

To consider a further report from the Assistant Town Clerk attached at page 2.

6. **REPAIRS NEEDED FOR ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH CLOCK**

To consider a further report by the Assistant Town Clerk attached at pages 3 to 4.

7. **PROPOSAL TO EXTEND LOADING/UNLOADING PROHIBITION IN SOUTH STREET**

To consider a report by the Assistant Town Clerk attached at pages 5 to 6

8. **FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR PERIOD ENDING 31 JULY 2009**

To consider the Financial Statement for the period 1 June to 31 July 2009 attached at pages 7 to 14.

PUBLIC COMMENT (15 minutes)

SH/AT
15/09/09

5. RAILINGS/BOLLARDS AT ENTRANCE TO SILVER STREET

The Assistant Town Clerk met again with Mike Fear, Assistant Highways Manager, to discuss the policy on town centre highway safety initiatives as well as possible funding for the proposed Silver Street scheme (Minute 7/185 refers).

Highways have no objection to an 'ornate barrier', which could support a floral display. Mike advised that Highways would not consider putting bollards in Silver Street, as they do not consider the problem to be a parking issue that has led to damage to the highway, subsequently causing defects for pedestrians to trip over.

Highways confirmed that they would not fund this scheme, as they consider that Silver Street is essentially an enforcement issue, which should be dealt with by the Police and the PCSO's.

Note : The District Council's Project Support Officer has since sent the Town Clerk a report from Avon & Somerset Police on the number of fixed penalty notices issued in the Town since November 2008. A total of 286 notices were issued. The figures would seem to suggest a decreasing trend in the number of penalty notices issued since PCSO presence in the area has been reinforced.

The Assistant Town Clerk was also requested to investigate the costs and practicalities of using wooden bollards to deter vehicles from mounting the pavement similar to that used in Dorchester. We are currently waiting for information from Dorset County Council's Technical Department; this should be available to circulate to Members at the meeting.

Should Members wish to proceed with the erection of a barrier or bollards, this could be met from the Community Safety Budget, which currently has £4178 uncommitted.

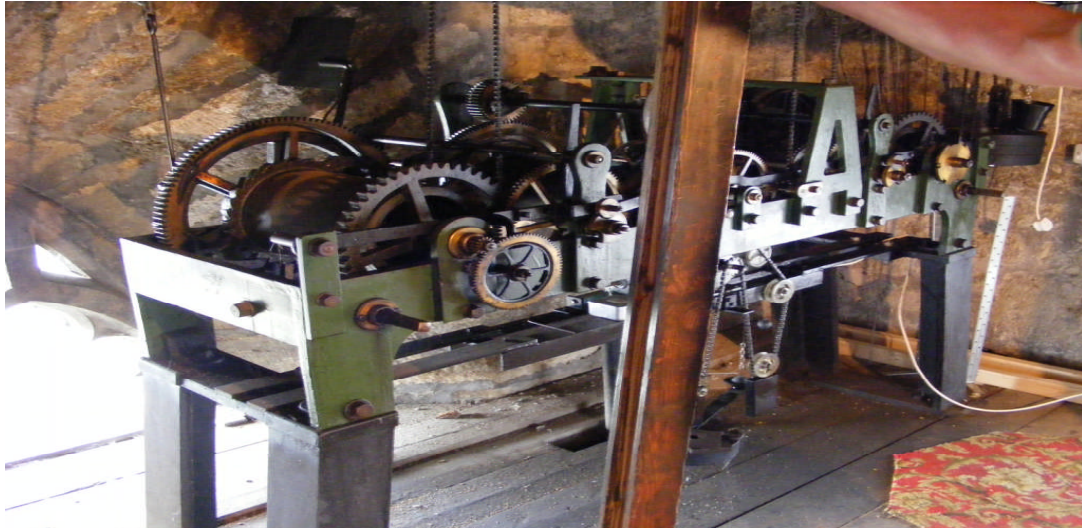
The Committee is **RECOMMENDED** to note the report and to consider whether to proceed with the Silver Street scheme, noting that there is no funding available from Highways.

(Sarah Hunt – Assistant Town Clerk. 01935 382424)

6. REPAIRS NEEDED FOR ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH CLOCK

Introduction

Further to a request of the Committee to investigate the maintenance agreement for St John's church clock, the Assistant Town Clerk has obtained a copy of the original agreement between the Parish of St. John and the former Borough of Yeovil.



History

The agreement refers to the ownership of the clock being vested in the Authority, and the council having a right *“to repair and manage the same and with full power to service it or deal with it in whatsoever manner they may in their uncontrolled discretion think fit”*.

In 1974, when the Borough Council ceased to exist, the successor authority - Yeovil District Council (which later became South Somerset District Council) assumed responsibility for manually winding and maintaining the clock.

The clock was passed to the Town Council, following its formation in 1982. As part of the transfer arrangements, the District Council paid to have the clock overhauled and the Town Council paid for it to be converted to electric winding, to save the expense of using human resource.

In April 1987, the Town Council passed the following resolution:

That Council approval be given to the Amenities Committee taking over responsibility for the maintenance of St John's Church Clock, subject to the necessary basic repairs being undertaken by the South Somerset District Council and to the provision and installation of automatic winding units being funded by the Amenities Committee resources.

It was noted that the Amenities Committee had already agreed to make the necessary funds available, and arrangements were made at the time for the District Council to commission the identified repairs/works. These were undertaken in 1988.

Since that time, the Town Council has spent almost £1,500 in servicing the clock and on minor repairs.

In 1997, £1,598 was spent by the Town Council to repair the electric winding mechanism, which had not been properly calibrated on initial installation. Subsequently, however, the electric winding mechanism installed over 20 years ago has become temperamental as parts have worn out, and despite a number of minor repairs, the mechanism is no longer reliable and the striking action has been disconnected pending a decision being made on its future.

There have been various ad-hoc modifications that have been made over the years by various clock experts and enthusiasts to help the clock maintain its correct chime speed.

Current Situation

As per minute 7/187 (July 2009 Committee Meeting), the clock-servicing engineers Gillett & Johnston (Croydon) Ltd., submitted a recent quotation for £659.00 to repair a pivotal component in the clock mechanism, which will restore the chiming action. However, owing to the age of the clock mechanism, there is no guarantee that further parts will not deteriorate, resulting in additional works having to be undertaken. In the meantime, the clock remains out of action.

The church clock is not visible to passers-by as it is a clock without a face. The chimes are of historical interest, having the same peal as used in the Clock Tower at the Palace of Westminster.

The Captain of the Bells at the Church believes that with sufficient investment, the chiming action could be restored to working order as part of an exercise to reposition the bells in the bell tower. However, he has not indicated how much this would cost. He has referred to the tradition of having a chiming clock in the Town Centre.

Recommendation

Committee members are **RECOMMENDED** to consider whether, in light of the above information, they wish to continue to pay for clock repairs, with the following points to be taken into consideration to inform the decision:

- a) The clock is considered by some to be integral to the fabric of the Church, and has some historic significance for the town;
- b) The clock is unique in design and as such should be maintained for the town in working order for the foreseeable future;
- c) There is little amenity value in maintaining a clock that cannot be seen; it can only be heard by those walking in the vicinity of the churchyard;
- d) Repair and maintenance costs are likely to increase proportionately to the age of the clock;
- e) Minor, free repairs are currently carried out by the Captain of the Bells, who is likely to retire in the near future; there is no obvious successor to tend the clock;

(Sarah Hunt, Assistant Town Clerk – 01935 382424)

7. **PROPOSAL TO EXTEND LOADING / UNLOADING PROHIBITION IN SOUTH STREET**

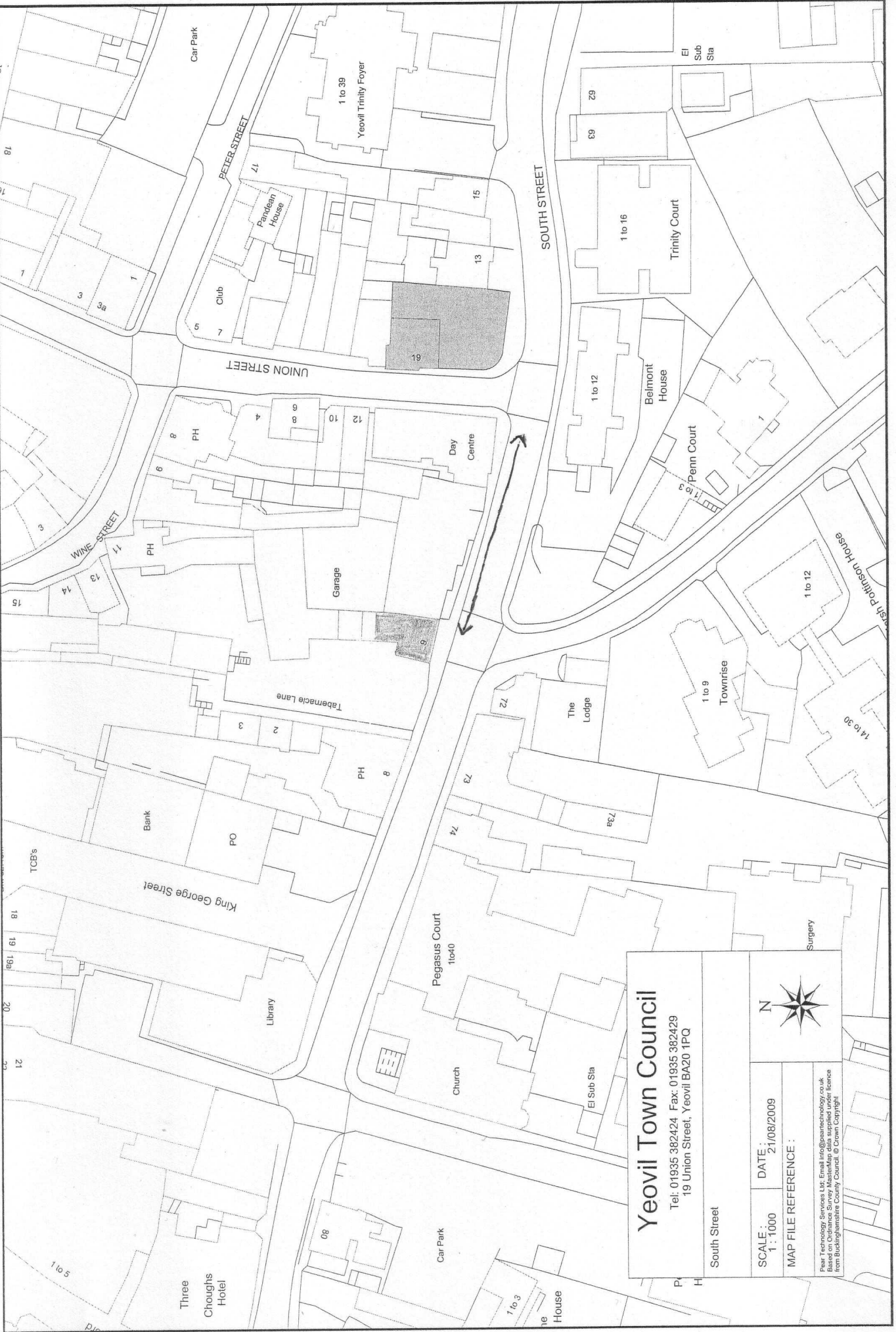
Councillor Tony Lock has requested that the Committee considers the merits of extending the loading/unloading prohibition order on a section of the north side of South Street. The proposed extension would extend in an easterly direction from outside the Chemist shop to the junction with Union Street.

Tony feels that the extended unloading zone would improve the visibility for drivers of vehicles emerging from Union Street wishing to turn right into South Street.

The distance from the Chemist to the corner of Union Street is 49 metres. A map is attached to illustrate Tony's proposal.

The Committee is **RECOMMENDED** to note and discuss the merits of the request.

(Sarah Hunt – Assistant Town Clerk. 01935 382424)



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 19 Union Street, Yeovil BA20 1PQ

South Street

SCALE: 1:1000
 DATE: 21/08/2009
 MAP FILE REFERENCE:

North

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